

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
AND  
PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: BARKER/KARPIS GANG  
BREMER KIDNAPPING**

**FILE NUMBER: 7-576**

**SECTION : 275**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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SUBJECT Barker/Karpis Gang (Bremer Kidnapping)

FILE NUMBER 7-576

SECTION NUMBER 275

SERIALS 15325 - 15405

TOTAL PAGES 213

PAGES RELEASED 213

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AIRTEL

FEBRUARY 17, 1954 <sup>29145</sup> AIR MAIL

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

0 **REKID** ADVISE NAME OF AGENT AND DATE REPORT SUBMITTED.

HOOVER

7-576

JTS:de j *duf*

RECORDED-27

EX-102

FEB 18 1954

130

7-576-15325

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

58 FEB 23 1954

F-467

COMM - FBI  
FEB 17 1954  
MAILED 19

FEB 18 1954  
FBI  
MINNAPOLIS

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
JTB  
JTB  
JTB



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, ST. LOUIS 1-27-54 AM  
DIRECTOR, FBI . . . . . A I R T E L

BREKID. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU AND THE MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE,  
THERE ARE ATTACHED COPIES OF OPINION OF THE U. S. CIRCUIT COURT OF  
APPEALS FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT RENDERED BY THAT COURT ON JAN. 25, 1954,  
IN THE CASE ENTITLED VOLNEY DAVIS, APPELLANT, VS. UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA, APPELLEE, IN WHICH THE DECISION OF THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA WAS REVERSED AND REMANDED FOR FURTHER PRO-  
CEEDINGS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY CONVERSATION WITH SUPERVISOR FRANK PRICE  
AT THE BUREAU ON JAN. 26, 1954, THE MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE IS REQUESTED TO  
CONTACT THE USA IN MINNEAPOLIS AND AT THE SAME TIME REVIEW THE FILES OF  
THAT OFFICE TO FIND OUT WHETHER THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR THE SUBJECT'S  
CLAIM THAT HE HAD PLED GUILTY IN THIS MATTER WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE THAT HE  
WAS ENTITLED TO COUNSEL. THERE IS ALSO ATTACHED TO THIS AIRTEL BEING  
SENT TO THE BUREAU A COPY OF A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING TAKEN FROM THE ST.  
LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT OF JAN. 26, 1954.

Mr. Rosen

MILNES

CC: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

RECORDED-29

EX-127

17-576-15326  
JAN 29 1954

2 ENCL  
END  
7-43

CC: MINNEAPOLIS (ENCL)

ENCLOSURES - 2

52 MAR 8 1954

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

United States Court of Appeals  
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

No. 14,799.

Volney Davis,

Appellant,

vs.

United States of America,

Appellee.

Appeal from the  
United States Dis-  
trict Court for the  
District of Minne-  
sota.

[January 25, 1954.]

Appellant filed brief pro se.

George E. MacKinnon, United States Attorney, and Alex  
Dim, Assistant United States Attorney, filed brief for  
Appellee.

Before JOHNSEN and COLLET, Circuit Judges, and NORDBYE,  
District Judge.

COLLET, Circuit Judge.

Appellant entered a plea of guilty, June 3, 1935, in the  
United States District Court for the District of Minnesota,  
to an indictment charging that he conspired with others to,

7-576-15326

and did, kidnap Edward George Bremer at St. Paul, Minnesota, and transport him into the State of Illinois. Sentence was deferred until June 7, 1935, at which time he was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Matthew M. Joyce. Appellant did not have counsel. He was thereafter confined at Alcatraz. In 1940 he sought a writ of habeas corpus in the Northern District of California upon the ground that he was deprived of his liberty without having the assistance of counsel. The writ was denied. In December, 1952, appellant filed a motion in the sentencing court of Minnesota under Sec. 2255, Title 28, U.S.C.A., for an order vacating and setting aside his sentence of June 7, 1935. The grounds of his motion were that he was sentenced without the advice of counsel, that he did not know of his right to counsel, did not waive counsel, was led to believe that if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given a term of years, that he was not taken before a United States Commissioner, was not given a copy of his indictment, and was held incommunicado.

The trial court denied the motion without a hearing, upon the files and record in the sentencing court and the record in the California habeas corpus proceedings. The court found, in a memorandum opinion, that appellant was fully apprised of his constitutional right to counsel and freely and intelligently waived his right to counsel; that there was no support for his claim that he would be given a term of years if he entered a plea of guilty; that since appellant was arrested pursuant to a grand jury indictment, there was no necessity that he be taken before a United States Commissioner; that the indictment was read to him before he entered his plea of guilty; and that he was not held incommunicado prior to his trial.

The record before us discloses the denial in the habeas corpus proceedings of appellant's claim that he did not

waive the benefit of counsel, and several affidavits which purport to be at least part of the evidence in the District Court of California in that proceeding. That evidence in the habeas corpus proceeding supports the trial court's conclusion that appellant was apprised of his right to counsel, waived counsel, and was not misled or mistreated.

Accompanying the filing of the motion to set aside the sentence was a petition for a writ of habeas corpus ad testificandum for appellant's presence at the hearing on the motion. That petition was not granted, appellant was not present at the hearing on the motion and had no opportunity to offer testimony in support of his motion. The procedure was, as heretofore indicated, under Sec. 2255 of the Judicial Code. 28 U.S.C. (Supp. IV) Sec. 2255, 28 U.S.C.A. Sec. 2255. By express provision of Sec. 2255 the motions under that section, such as this one, may be determined without requiring the production of the movant prisoner<sup>1</sup>. It is equally clear from the Supreme Court's opinion in *United States v. Hayman*, 342 U.S. 205, 223, that—"whether the prisoner should be produced depends upon the issues raised by the particular case."

In the *Hayman* case the dominant issue was whether the movant "enjoyed the effective assistance of counsel guaranteed defendants in federal courts by the Sixth Amendment." Specifically, in that case the movant alleged that a principal witness against him at his trial, and a defendant in a related case, was represented by the same lawyer as movant, that he was not told of the dual representation and had no way of discovering the conflict until after the trial was over. It appeared from court records that the witness entered a plea of guilty in the related case and did testify against movant. Since such a conflict of interest might have

<sup>1</sup>"A court may entertain and determine such motion without requiring the production of the prisoner at the hearing."

prejudiced movant, the trial court and the Court of Appeals found that the allegation warranted a hearing under the pertinent provision of Sec. 2255 that:—

“Unless the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show that the prisoner is entitled to no relief, the court shall \* \* \* grant a prompt hearing \* \* \*, determine the issues and make findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect thereto.”

In the *Hayman* case the hearing was ex parte, the trial court found that movant's counsel had represented both parties with the knowledge and consent and at the instance and request of movant, and denied the motion to vacate the sentence. The Supreme Court did not reconsider the concurrent finding of the trial court and the Court of Appeals that the motion raised substantial issues of fact calling for an inquiry into their verity, but proceeding to the question of the propriety of the hearing being ex parte, held that under the circumstances of that case, in view of the nature of the issue raised, the hearing on the motion should not have been ex parte and that movant should have had an opportunity to be present.

In the present case the motion was denied without a full hearing upon the ground that the files and records of the case conclusively showed that the prisoner was not entitled to relief.

Several of the grounds of the motion were obviously susceptible of determination from the files and records of the case. The date of the arraignment and plea, as shown by the records and the motion, demonstrated that at that time there was no requirement that appellant be furnished with a copy of the indictment. *Cuckovich v. United States*, 170 F.2d 89. The files and records of the case also showing that appellant was arrested under a warrant pursuant to a grand jury indictment, it conclusively appeared there-

from that it was not necessary that he be taken before a United States Commissioner. And the complaint that appellant was held incommunicado may, under the circumstances of this case, be treated as incidental to his claim that he did not know of his right to counsel and did not waive that right. It need not therefore be given separate consideration.

Did the allegations that appellant did not know of his constitutional rights to counsel, and, not knowing of those rights, did not waive them by voluntarily entering his plea of guilty without the benefit of the advice of counsel, “raise substantial issues of fact calling for an inquiry into their verity”? *United States v. Hayman*, 342 U.S. 205, 210. However convincing an ex parte showing might be that the allegations were without merit in fact, if appellant has been denied an opportunity to be heard on such an issue he “has lost something indispensable”. *United States v. Hayman, supra*. That the allegation of lack of knowledge of his constitutional right to counsel, that he was not apprised of that right, and not knowing of the right did not waive it, is such a substantial issue as to require an inquiry into the validity of the claimed deprivation is not open to serious question. *Walker v. Johnston*, 312 U.S. 275; *United States v. Hayman, supra*; *Mothershead v. King*, 112 F.2d 1004. Therefore, unless, as Sec. 2255 provides, “the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show” the prisoner is entitled to no relief, he has been denied an indispensable opportunity to be heard. What files and records?

It appears from the trial court's memorandum in this case that these same issues were presented in the California habeas corpus proceedings. The entire record of those proceedings does not appear from this record to have been before the trial court. Pursuant to our order that the clerk of the District Court submit the original files in the

use to this court, we have before us, as a part of those  
les, the certificate of the United States District Court for  
e Northern District of California denying appellant's  
petition to appeal in forma pauperis from the denial of his  
application for habeas corpus. In that certificate the issues  
involved in the habeas corpus proceeding are referred to  
s follows:

The petitioner was sentenced to life imprisonment upon  
is a of guilty to a violation of 18 U.S.C.A. 408A. He  
aseu s application for a writ of habeas corpus upon the  
round that 'he was deprived of his liberty without having  
ne assistance of counsel in his behalf.'

The records of the case disclose that the petitioner in-  
lligently waived the right to counsel."

gain, what records? We have before us the record in the  
dnapping case in Minnesota, where the arraignment, plea  
nd sentence took place. That record is silent on the ques-  
on of appellant's knowledge of his rights and waiver of  
ose rights.<sup>2</sup> Hence the record in the sentencing court  
uld not have been the "record" referred to in the habeas  
rpus proceeding. The only other record of the habeas  
rpus proceedings certified to us by the clerk of the Dis-  
ct Court consists of copies of a number of ex parte affi-  
davits<sup>3</sup> which purport to have been filed in the habeas corpus  
ceedings. These affidavits relate to all of appellant's  
ee remaining issues now under consideration, to wit,  
t he did not know his constitutional right to counsel,  
t he did not waive that right, and that he was led to  
ieve he would be given a term of years if he entered a  
a of guilty. Those affidavits, as heretofore indicated,  
nish ample justification for the conclusion that those  
gations or claims are without merit. But, again, they

appear, insofar as the record before us shows, to have been  
ex parte, in an ex parte habeas corpus proceeding. We  
might indulge the presumption that the habeas corpus hear-  
ing was not ex parte if it were not for the fact that, as  
stated in *Walker v. Johnston*, 312 U.S. 275, 284, 285, the  
practice in the Ninth Circuit prior to the decision of *Walk-  
er v. Johnston*, February 10, 1941, had been to adjudicate  
the right to writs of habeas corpus upon the allegations of  
the petition and traverse, the return, and ex parte affidavits,  
without the taking of testimony. But we also cannot con-  
clusively assume that the practice followed generally in  
the Ninth Circuit was followed in this particular habeas  
corpus proceeding, although appellant asserts in his brief  
that it was. Hence, the best we can make out of the record  
before us is that it appears that appellant nowhere along  
the line has had an opportunity to be heard on these issues,  
one or more of which are substantial, could not be de-  
termined from the motion and the files and records in the  
case, and hence should be determined on other than ex  
parte affidavits. *Walker v. Johnston, supra; United States  
v. Hayman, supra.*

If these issues have been heard and determined in the  
habeas corpus proceeding in the manner required by *Walk-  
er v. Johnston*, and the files and records of that proceeding  
demonstrating that fact are before the trial court in this  
Sec. 2255 proceeding, the trial court could treat the record  
of the habeas corpus proceedings as part of the "files and  
records of the case" within the meaning of Sec. 2255 and  
deny the motion without a hearing on the ground that the  
"files and records" "conclusively" show appellant was  
entitled to no relief. *Collins v. United States*, 206 F.2d 918.  
But the record before us does not present that situation.  
*Walker v. Johnston* and *United States v. Hayman* require  
that the opportunity for such a hearing must be given

he record shows: "Upon being questioned by the Court said defendant  
I that he did not desire the advice of counsel and entered a plea of not  
/ of the charge in the indictment."

somewhere when the motion presents "substantial issues of fact" not determinable from the motion, files and records, "and calling for an inquiry into their verity." *United States v. Hayman, supra*.

We are not unmindful of the fact, as shown by the record, that Judge Joyce, who determined the present Sec. 2255 proceeding, was also the sentencing court in 1935 and that in his memorandum opinion denying the present motion he states:

"The record conclusively shows, and *corroborates my own recollection in this regard*, that the petitioner was fully apprised of his right to have counsel and freely and intelligently waived his right thereto." (Italics ours)

That the record referred to by the trial court is not such a record as that contemplated by Sec. 2255 has been demonstrated. It possibly would appear to be a comparatively useless expenditure of time and money to hold a hearing for the purpose of giving a convicted person an opportunity to convince the trial judge that the judge's recollection of the events which transpired in an important case such as this, the details of which he would more vividly remember, was faulty and that the convicted person's own recollection was more accurate. But if, as is evident from the authorities cited, the prisoner has a right to at least one chance to correct what he believes has been a deprivation of his constitutional rights by showing that the memory of lay witnesses is not as accurate as his own, there is no good reason why he should not have the same opportunity to correct what he believes to be a faulty recollection of the judge. While the latter may appear more difficult to the prisoner, it certainly is more important to him that he have the opportunity. And if practicalities be a consideration, fair and open-minded judges like Judge Joyce have

no more hesitancy in changing their minds, as judges or as witnesses,<sup>3</sup> when convinced they are in error than they have in following their judgment or recollection when convinced it is correct. The "tradition of judicial proceedings" defined by Chief Justice Hughes in *Morgan v. United States*, 298 U.S. 468, 480, of which we are recently reminded by Chief Justice Vinson in *United States v. Hayman*, 342 U.S. 205, 220, requires that appellant have the opportunity.

Observation and experience compel the conclusion that in many instances allegations such as those now under consideration are not honestly made and constitute barefaced perjury. In many other instances lapse of time and wishful thinking ripen into a conviction that events were as alleged, when in fact they were not. But however onerous the burden may be, the protection of the rights of persons in the comparatively few meritorious cases requires the careful adherence to our traditions of judicial proceedings in all cases, in order that the few may be discovered. And while in many instances the penalty for willful perjury would be ineffective, and in many others inappropriate, its application under proper circumstances will further the ends of justice in several ways.

The cause must be and is reversed and remanded for further proceedings not inconsistent herewith.

A true copy.

Attest:

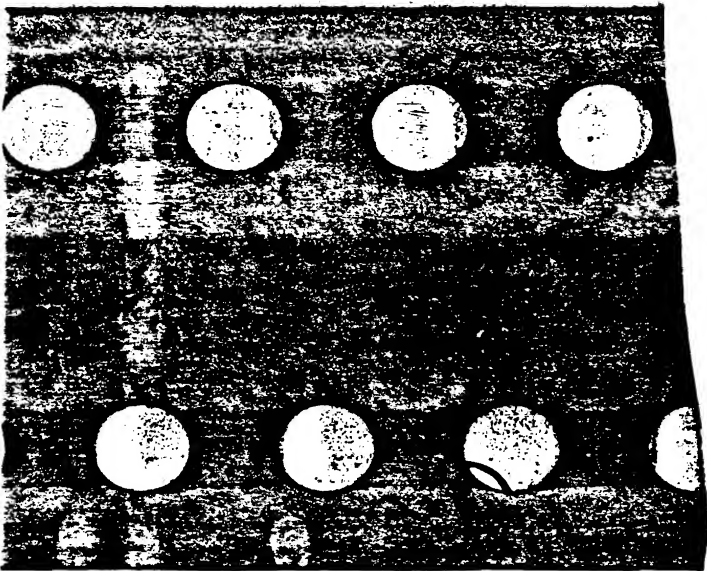
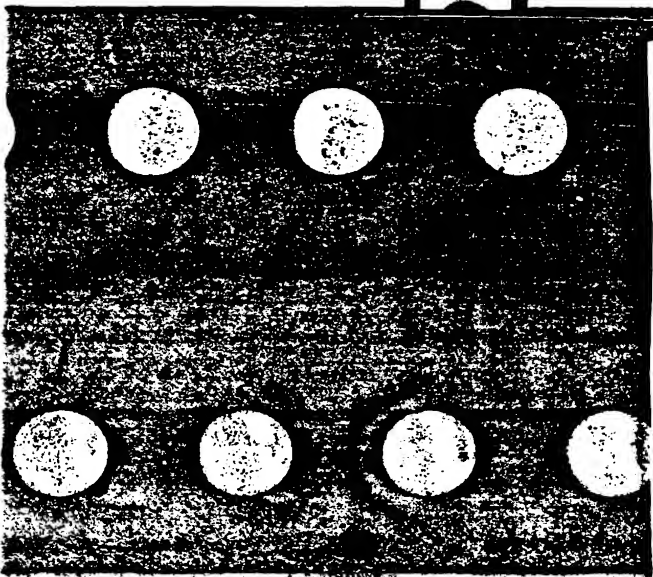
Clerk, U. S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit.

<sup>3</sup>See *Montgomery et al. v. United States*, 134 F.2d 1; *Montgomery et al. v. United States*, 165 F.2d 196.



7-576-15326

ENCLOSURE



## Confessed Kidnapers Wins Hearing in Fight for Freedom

A confessed kidnaper serving a life sentence at Alcatraz, who for almost 20 years has been acting as his own attorney in a fight for freedom yesterday won a hearing that may lead to his liberation.

The kidnaper, Volney Davis, was sentenced for his part in the kidnaping of Edward G. Bremer, a St. Paul, Minn., banker, in 1934. Bremer was released unharmed after payment of a \$200,000 ransom.

Yesterday the United States Court of Appeals here ruled Davis was entitled to a court hearing on his claim that his sentence should be set aside because he pleaded guilty without the knowledge that he had the constitutional right to have the advice and counsel of an attorney.

Davis, who began serving his life term in 1935, first sought his freedom, acting as his own attorney, in 1940, when he filed for a writ of habeas corpus in Federal Court in California. This was denied. He tried again in 1952, filing his motion for a hearing in Federal Court in St. Paul. Here again he was defeated, but on the appeal, ruled on here yesterday, the St. Paul court will now have to give him a hearing which could lead to his release.

ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
JANUARY 26, 1954

7-576-1538



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS 2-9-54

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576) AIR TEL

*bc*  
BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS AIR TEL TO DIRECTOR FEBRUARY 5, 1954. ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ALEX DIM ADVISED THAT APPROVAL RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT FOR UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, ST. PAUL, TO PROCEED WITH HEARING AT ST. PAUL FOR VOLNEY DAVIS. MR. DIM STATED THAT ON FEBRUARY 15, 1954, HE WILL ASK JUDGE MATTHEW M. JOYCE TO ISSUE A COURT ORDER SETTING A DATE DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 FOR HEARING FOR DAVIS FOR PURPOSE OF DETERMINING VOLNEY DAVIS' WISHES AND WHETHER HE DESIRES THE COURT TO APPOINT AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT HIM. MR. DIM ADVISED FURTHER THAT HE ANTICIPATES CALLING THE GOVERNMENT'S WITNESSES AT A HEARING WHICH HE WILL RECOMMEND FOR WEEK OF MARCH 10, 1954. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

SF:GAM  
7-30

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7-576-15397  
FEB 10 1954

245  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

50 FEB 25 1954

Special Agent in Charge

EX-110

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 18 1954

TELETYPE

29146

Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2/18/54

3-30 PM

MJA

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC-S CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY, MIAMI, NEW YORK

OMAHA, PHILADELPHIA, ST. LOUIS, SAN ANTONIO, SAN DIEGO,

SAN FRANCISCO, SAVANNAH, AND CINCINNATI

U R G E N T

BREKID. RE BUREAU FILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. RE

BUAIRTELS TO MP FEB. NINE AND SEVENTEEN LAST. THREE COPIES

OF REPORT OF SA SIGURD FLAATA SUBMITTED TO BUREAU AIRMAIL

FEB. TWELVE LAST. AUSA ALEX DIM ADVISED TODAY COURT ORDER SIGNED BY

JUDGE MATTHEW M. JOYCE TODAY TO HAVE VOLNEY DAVIS BROUGHT FROM

U. SM PENITENTIARY, LEAVENWORTH TO ST. PAUL FOR HEARING ON FEB. TWENTY-

SIX NEXT. DIM STATED JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE WILL PRESIDE AT HEARING TO

WHICH DAVIS IS BEING BROUGHT FOR PURPOSE OF APPOINTING AN ATTORNEY

FOR DAVIS. DIM REQUESTED THAT RESULTS OF ALL INTERVIEWS WITH WITNESSES

BE FURNISHED TO HIM BY FEB. TWENTYSIX NEXT IN ORDER THAT PLANS BE

COMPLETED FOR SUBPOENA OF NECESSARY WITNESSES FOR LATER HEARING. FOR

THE INFO OF ALL OFFICES, RE BUREAU AIRTEL TO MP FEB. NINE LAST, INSTRUCTE

THAT BEFORE ANY FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS ARE SUBPOENAED, CLARANCE

SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU.

HOWARD

END AND ACK IN OR PLS

WA 4-33 PM OK FBI WA JG

MM OK FBI MM ECE

NY OK FBI NYC DW

PH OK FBI PH MLG

SV OK FBI SV FLN

CI OK FBI CI CS

E OTHER OFFICES BEEN ADVISED

FEB 23 1954

O BE ADVISED

DIS

RECORDED-12

77-576-1332

FEB 23 1954

Mr. Rosen

OIA MR. ROSEN  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CINCINNATI**

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/18/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/17/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>E. E. KUHNEL</b> <span style="float: right;">mkd</span>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was., (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>SA E. E. KUHNEL in signed statement states his contact with DAVIS was limited to trip from Chicago to Minneapolis 6/2 and 3/35. During that time DAVIS was never restrained with anything beyond handcuffs and leg irons. DAVIS' attitude throughout the entire trip was jovial and friendly, registering no complaint whatsoever concerning his treatment while in custody, neither did he indicate that he had ever had any desire since being in custody to contact any attorney or anyone else. DAVIS' attitude was entirely one of resignation, expecting to plead guilty and fully satisfied that he would receive a life sentence. Nothing expressed at any time indicating he held any hope for any lesser sentence or had ever discussed his possible sentence with any Agent while in custody.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <p>Set forth below is the signed statement of SA E. E. KUHNEL, the original of which is being forwarded to the Cincinnati office.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">"San Antonio, Texas February 17, 1954. <i>pa</i></p> <p>"I, ERNEST E. KUHNEL, make the following voluntary statement to Special Agent in Charge Morton P. Chiles, Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation since May 23, 1934. I am so employed at the present time, residing in San Antonio, Texas.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>del in Bu 3-5-54</i></p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>me</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: <i>del in Bu 3-5-54</i>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
3 Bureau (7-576)(AIR MAIL) 3 Minneapolis (1 USA, 2 Paul) (Enc. 1)(REGISTERED MAIL) 2 Cincinnati 2 San Antonio (7-41)		7-576-15329 FEB 23 1954 RECORDED - 36 EX-126	

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1952 - O-210816 16-50255-2

"In June 1935 I was employed in the same capacity and assigned to the Chicago office. In such capacity I participated along with other Agents in the removal of VOLNEY DAVIS from the Chicago Office to the Airport and thence on a flight to Minneapolis, Minnesota on the afternoon of June 2, 1935. We landed at the Minneapolis Airport at about 5 a.m. on the morning of June 3 at which time VOLNEY DAVIS was turned over to Special Agents of the St. Paul office.

"Prior to assisting in the removal of DAVIS, I had not participated in any of the questioning of DAVIS during the time he was in custody in Chicago. My first contact with him was immediately prior to his removal from the FBI office to the Airport. For this reason I have no information concerning any activity involving DAVIS prior to that time.

"At the time DAVIS was moved from the office to the airport he was restrained with handcuffs and leg irons. Neither then nor at any time that I was in his company did I hear him make any complaint concerning the restraining devices that were then in use, nor did he even comment concerning any restraining devices used on him during the time that he was in custody.

"The plane took off from the Chicago airport immediately after we had boarded it. Our first stop was at the airport at Madison, Wisconsin, which as I recall, was to take on additional gasoline. Our departure, however, was delayed at Madison until approximately 3 a.m. on the morning of June 3 due to inclement weather. During this period several attempts were made to take off, however, the weather was such that we were forced to immediately land again.

"While enroute from Chicago to Minneapolis, DAVIS talked freely with me and the other Agents accompanying him. He appeared at all times to be in a jovial mood and voluntarily discussed his past activities. I particularly recall that he related a number of incidents concerning another occasion when he was in custody of Bureau Agents several years before and commented upon his good treatment at their hands at that time. At no time did VOLNEY DAVIS manifest by a single word any animosity or ill feeling toward any Agents with whom he had had contact while in Chicago or at any other time.

"During the evening I clearly recall that DAVIS voluntarily commented that he expected to plead guilty to the charges awaiting him in St. Paul. He stated that in his opinion it would be useless for him to fight the case; that he was guilty, and that the Agents "had the goods on him."

"As I remember, DAVIS commented, "I know what I will get. It will be life." DAVIS went on to say that he was sure that he would be sent to the United States Penitentiary at Alcatraz to serve his life sentence. He stated that he dreaded such a sentence and in fact preferred death. He explained this statement by volunteering that he had served part of a life sentence some years previously in the State Penitentiary at McAlester, Oklahoma for

"having killed a Night Watchman. According to DAVIS, from that experience he felt sure that he knew what would be in store form him in the serving of another life sentence.

"Despite VOLNEY DAVIS'S statements on that occasion concerning his certainty of the imposition of a life sentence, he at no time in any of his remarks indicated the slightest desire to contest the case. At no time did he indicate in any way that he had any desire to contact an attorney, that he had previously requested permission to contact an attorney, or anyone else or had even desired to use a telephone to contact anyone.

"DAVIS'S attitude throughout this period when this matter was discussed, was consistently one of being resigned to pleading guilty and receiving a life sentence. At no time did DAVIS mention anything in his conversation which would indicate that he had had any previous discussion with any Agent of the FBI or anyone else concerning his plea or the sentence that he expected to receive. His belief that he would receive a life sentence appeared to be based upon the sentences already received by other persons who had also been charged with this offense.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and one other page and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true and correct.

/s/ "ERNEST E. KUHNEL

"Witness:

"BRUNO F. DREYER, Spl., Agt., FBI, San Antonio."

ENCLOSURE:

TO THE MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE

Signed statement of SA ERNEST E. KUHNEL dated 2/17/54.

- RUC -

LEADS:

THE MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION

AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Two copies of this report are being furnished the Minneapolis office inasmuch as that office has investigation pending in that Division.

REFERENCE: Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated 2/12/54 at Minneapolis.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT <b>KANSAS CITY</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/19/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/10,17/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM M. HAWKINS</b> jbm
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER; was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was.; et al EDWARD GEORGE BREMER-VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>VOLNEY DAVIS has detainer at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Ks. from State Penitentiary, McAlester, Okla., charging escape-life sentence for murder. DAVIS' article entitled "Trial and Error" published in prison publication in summer of 1953.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-RUC-</p> <p><b>DETAILS: AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:</b></p> <p>C. F. ZARTER, Record Clerk, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised that VOLNEY DAVIS, inmate # 47101, is a prisoner at that institution, and that a detainer was received by the prison on June 27, 1953 from the State Penitentiary, McAlester, Oklahoma for DAVIS. He said the detainer charges "escape-life sentence for murder."</p> <p>Mr. ZARTER said that the prisoners at this prison publish a magazine called "The New Era". He said the Summer-1953 edition contains an article on Page 6 by VOLNEY DAVIS, entitled "Trial and Error". Mr. ZARTER furnished two copies of this publication.</p> <p><b>ENCLOSURES: TO THE MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:</b></p> <p>Two (2) copies of "The New Era", Summer-1953 Edition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-RUC-</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES DESTROYED 168 MAR 26 1965 3-Bureau (7-576) 3-Minneapolis (7-576, St. Paul) (Encl. 2) (7-30) 2-Cincinnati (7-43) 1-Kansas City (7-37)		3/2/54 100-100000-7-576-15330 FEB 23 1954 RECORDED - 94 EX-126	

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-58225-2

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated 2/12/54 at Minneapolis.



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT St. Louis, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 2-18-54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-16 thru 18-54	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT J. AHSENS RMS
TITLE ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was.; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>JOHN E. BRENNAN, former Special Agent, reaffirmed all facts set out in his affidavit 4-15-40 concerning VOLNEY DAVIS. Stated that the subject of counsel was discussed with VOLNEY DAVIS and DAVIS was never informed by him, BRENNAN, nor by anyone else in BRENNAN's presence that a plea of guilty would result in a reduced sentence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>At St. Louis, Missouri</u></p> <p>On February 17 and 18, 1954 JOHN E. BRENNAN, formerly an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for over twenty years and presently residing at 4410 Dresden Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri was interviewed concerning the petition for writ of habeas corpus filed by VOLNEY DAVIS on December 5, 1952.</p> <p>BRENNAN carefully reviewed the sworn affidavit which he made April 15, 1940 at St. Louis concerning a previous petition by DAVIS. He also reviewed the allegations set out in the petition of DAVIS dated December 5, 1952. BRENNAN reaffirmed all the facts which were set out in his affidavit of April 15, 1940 and advised in addition that the subject of counsel was discussed with VOLNEY DAVIS and that DAVIS had preferred to use such funds as he had available for use of his mother rather than "waste" it on attorney's fees. BRENNAN also stated that VOLNEY DAVIS was never informed by him, BRENNAN, nor by anyone else in BRENNAN's presence that a plea of guilty would possibly result in a reduced sentence rather than life imprisonment. BRENNAN gave a signed statement to this effect which is set out as follows:</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>3 - Bureau (7-576) (AM)</p> <p>2 - Cincinnati (7-43)</p> <p>3 - Minneapolis (7-30) (Encl.-1) (RM)</p> <p>1 - USA, St. Paul, Minn.</p> <p>1 - St. Louis (7-40) 3/2/54</p>		<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">7-576-15331</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FEB 23 1954</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RECORDED - 28</p>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50255-2

"February 18, 1954  
St. Louis, Missouri

"I, John E. Brennan, make the following signed statement voluntarily to Robert J. Ahsens, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, concerning the petition of Volney Davis dated December 5, 1952.

"I have been a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, for over twenty years, and I am presently retired from that organization, residing at 4410 Dresden, St. Louis, Missouri.

"I have carefully read the affidavit made by me April 15, 1940 concerning Volney Davis, and I have read Davis's petition dated December 5, 1952 for release on habeas corpus.

"I reaffirm all facts which were set out in my affidavit on April 15, 1940 concerning this matter, and of independent recollection recalled these facts prior to reading this affidavit.

"In addition to the information set out in this affidavit, I reiterate that the subject of counsel was discussed with Volney Davis, and he preferred to use such funds as he had available for use of his mother rather than 'waste' it on attorney's fees. As set out in this affidavit, he was advised fully as to his right to counsel.

"Volney Davis was never informed by me nor by anyone else in my presence that a plea of guilty would possibly result in a reduced sentence rather than life imprisonment.

"The above statement has been read by me, and it is true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

"/s/ John E. Brennan  
JOHN E. BRENNAN

"Witnesses:

"Robert J. Ahsens, Spec. Agent, F.B.I.  
St. Louis, Mo."

This statement is being forwarded to the Minneapolis Office.

It is to be noted that BRENNAN, prior to reviewing his affidavit of April 15, 1940 and the allegations set out in DAVIS's petition dated December 5, 1952, recollected independently the facts

SL 7-43

in this matter, his activities in connection with DAVIS, and statements made between himself and DAVIS, all of which were the same as he had set out in his affidavit dated April 15, 1940.

ENCLOSURE TO MINNEAPOLIS: (1) Signed Statement obtained from JOHN E. BRENNAN dated February 18, 1954.

- RUC -

SL 7-43

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, February 12, 1954, Minneapolis.

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION, FEBRUARY 18, 1954 AIRTEL

Transmit the following message to:

- SAC, CINCINNATI (7-43) (MAIL)
- MINNEAPOLIS (7-30) (AIR MAIL)
- CHICAGO (7-82) (AIR MAIL)
- KANSAS CITY (7-37) (AIR MAIL)
- MIAMI (7-24) (AIR MAIL)
- NEW YORK (7-120) (MAIL)
- OMAHA (7-4) (AIR MAIL)
- PHILADELPHIA (MAIL)
- ST. LOUIS (7-43) (AIR MAIL)
- SAN ANTONIO (AIR MAIL)
- SAN DIEGO (AIR MAIL)
- SAN FRANCISCO (7-33) (AIR MAIL)
- SAVANNAH (MAIL)

178  
al

BREKID. REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED FEBRUARY 12, 1954, AT MINNEAPOLIS. ALL OFFICES EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION AND SUREP TO REACH THE BUREAU NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 26, NEXT.

HOOVER

MTC:eck  
ide

*Mr*

*R*

RECORDED-42

17-526-15332

EX-112

FEB 19 1954  
130

COMM - FBI  
FEB 18 1954  
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FBI  
RECEIVED - FBI ROOM

*FLP*

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Laughlin
- Mohr
- Tele. Rm.
- Holloman
- Gandy

65 MAR 1 1954

SENT VIA \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, KANSAS CITY

2/19/54

AIRTEL-AIRMAIL

DIRECTOR, FBI

BREKID, REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA, MPLS., 2/12/54. C. F. ZARTER, RECORD

CLERK, USP, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, SAID USM WOULD REMOVE VOLNEY DAVIS TO

ST. PAUL, MINN. ON 2/24/54.

W.H:JBM

7-37

lcc- Minneapolis (7-30)  
lcc- Cincinnati (7-43)

12-576-15333  
FEB 20 1954

RECORDED - 28

EX-110

55 FEB 26 1954

236

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CINCINNATI**

REPORT MADE AT <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/23/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/19/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROBERT E. CULLISON (kcc)</b>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was.; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p><b>MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, 6635 McCallum Street, Philadelphia, Pa., former Special Agent of Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewed and furnished signed statement setting forth his recollection concerning the apprehension, interrogation and treatment afforded VOLNEY DAVIS, who was arrested in Chicago, Ill., on 6/1/35, in connection with the kidnaping of EDWARD GEORGE BREMER.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>At Philadelphia, Pa.</u></p> <p>On February 19, 1954, MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, 6635 McCallum Street, a former Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewed for the purpose of obtaining the facts and circumstances surrounding the arrest, interrogation and treatment afforded VOLNEY DAVIS during the time the latter was in the custody of the Chicago Office. CHAFFETZ furnished the following signed statement;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">*Philadelphia, Pa. February 19, 1954</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*I, MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, presently residing at 6635 McCallum Street, Philadelphia 19, Pa., make the following statement to Special Agent ROBERT E. CULLISON covering my recollection of the apprehension and subsequent questioning of VOLNEY DAVIS.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>③-Bureau (7-576)</p> <p>2-Cincinnati (7-43)</p> <p>3-Minneapolis (7-3) (Air Mail)</p> <p>(1-USA, St. Louis) 3/2/54</p> <p>6-Philadelphia (7-45) / cc to Rpt</p> <p><b>67 MAR 1954</b></p>		<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">7-1576-15334</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RECORDED-29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">26 1954</p>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

"I recall that on or about June 1, 1935, at which time I was assigned to the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and where I had been assigned for some time previous to that, I participated in the apprehension of VOLNEY DAVIS. I recall that this occurred on a Saturday morning and that I participated in his arrest along with MELVIN PURVIS, who was then Special Agent in Charge at Chicago, and Special Agents H. A. MARTIN, R. C. SURAN, and EARL WILLIAMS. DAVIS was apprehended as he was making his exit from an apartment house on the outskirts of Chicago. He put up a token resistance, and apparently on seeing that he was completely covered, meekly surrendered.

"DAVIS was then taken in handcuffs to the Chicago Bureau Office and placed in a conference room there for interview. Upon his arrival there the handcuffs were removed, and it is my recollection that I took his fingerprints, which were given by him voluntarily. DAVIS at this time signed a waiver of removal and agreed to his being detained by us for complete questioning concerning his complicity in the kidnapping of EDWARD G. BREMER. He was questioned in detail by Special Agent SURAN and myself. He was advised at the outset that any statement that he might make would have to be voluntary on his part, and that if he desired to contact an attorney, that he had the right to do so. It is my recollection that DAVIS indicated a desire, now that he was in custody, to clean up this situation as quickly as possible. He evidenced a desire to furnish complete details concerning all of his previous activities in connection with this case, and advised that the quicker he was given the opportunity of pleading guilty the better he would like it. At no time was he kept in chains, and never made any request that he be permitted to make a telephone call or to contact an attorney. He was furnished with food at any time that he desired it, and was furnished with such food as he requested. He was allowed to sleep when he indicated a desire to do so, and was given clean clothing to wear.

"The complete statement taken from DAVIS was furnished voluntarily, and, in fact, it is my recollection that he was most anxious to make a clean breast of his activities and



"wanted to do so as quickly as possible. At no time was a promise ever made to VOLNEY DAVIS, as far as I am concerned or, for that matter, on the part of any agents present with me, to the effect that if DAVIS were to plead guilty to conspiracy he would be sentenced to less than life imprisonment. In fact, nothing was said to DAVIS concerning his pleading guilty or what sentence he would receive. DAVIS made the statement in my presence that he was anxious to plead guilty so that he could start serving his sentence and get it over with. The writer has no recollection whatsoever of the statement ever being made to DAVIS that 'we are all lawyers and we will take care of you.'

"I have read the preceeding statement, consisting of this and one other page, and it is true to the best of my recollection.

/s/ "MAXWELL CHAFFETZ

MAXWELL CHAFFETZ

"WITNESSED: /s/ ROBERT E. CULLISON

ROBERT E. CULLISON, Special Agent,  
FBI, Philadelphia, Pa., 2/19/54."

- R U C -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, at time of interview on 2/19/54, advised that in the event the United States Attorney, St. Paul, Minn., deems it necessary to subpoena him as a witness, he will accept service by being notified by the Philadelphia Office that a subpoena has been issued.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA SEGUARD FLAATA at Minneapolis dated 2/12/54.

Minneapolis teletype dated 2/18/54.

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

2-18-54 AIR-TEL AIR MAIL

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

BREKID, BUREAU SHOULD BE ADVISED BY DAILY SUMMARY OF  
PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COURT ACTION IN THIS CASE.

HOOVER

Bufile 7-6

Jts:ush

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED-12

FEB 19 1954  
130

EX-112

COMM - FBI

FEB 18 1954  
MAILED 19

MAR 1 1954

SENT VIA \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 19 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. H. Homan	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASH 22 FROM NEW YORK

19

1156 P

DIRECTOR URGENT

BREKID. REBUFILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL

TO BUREAU FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN LAST. INVESTIGATION, NY, REFLECTS

HAROLD E. ANDERSON PRESENTLY EMPLOYED NATIONAL BOARD OF FIRE

UNDERWRITERS, BOX THREE ELEVEN, WHITTIER, CALIF. COPY OF INSTANT

REPORT FORWARDED TO LA THIS DATE, AMSD.

LA INSTRUCTED TO MEET FEBRUARY TWENTY SIX DEADLINE.

KELLY

CINCINNATI AND MINNEAPOLIS ADVISED

END ACK PLS

5 WASH 22 1954 BW

TU DSC PLS

RECORDED-17-576-15336

FEB 24 1954

Mr. Rosen

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
GOB:RSK

AIRTEL (AIRMAIL)  
Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI MINNEAPOLIS 2/18/54 12:55 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI (Bufile 7-576)

BREKID. REBUAIRTEL 2/17/54. REPORT OF SA SIGURD FLAATA  
SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU 2/12/54.

HOWARD

END  
7-30

Mr. Rosen

See Mr. Clegg

RECORDED-12

17-576-1537  
FEB 23 1954

MAR 3 1954

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent        M Per

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

February 23, 1954

Director, FBI

VOLNEY DAVIS  
HABEAS CORPUS  
(YOUR REFERENCE 109-39-1, RSE)

Attached hereto is one copy of the report of  
Special Agent Sigurd Flaata dated February 12, 1954, at  
Minneapolis, which sets forth the results of this Bureau's  
investigation to date regarding the above-captioned matter.

Attachment

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Gandy
- Mohr
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Sizoo
- Miss Gandy

MTC:eck

58 FEB 26 1954

236

RECORDED-130

7-576-15338

FEB 24 1954  
130

MAILED 5  
FEB 28 1954  
COMM-FBI

FEB 28 1954  
FBI

Rox  
Mue  
Jef

29147

FEBRUARY 24, 1954 AIRTEL

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS & (AIRMAIL)  
CINCINNATI

BREKID. RE MP TEL FEBRUARY TWENTY THREE LAST. MP IS  
DESIGNATED OFFICE OF ORIGIN THIS CASE. MP IMMEDIATELY  
REVIEW FILE AND ADVISE AUXILLIARY OFFICES BY AIRTEL OF  
CHANGE IN OFFICE OF ORIGIN

HOOVER

7-576  
MTC:dmc

RECORDED - 36

FEB 25 1954  
130

COMM - FBI  
FEB 24 1954  
MAILED 28

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

5 MAR 1 1954

February 19, 1954 URGENT

SAC, SAVANNAH

BREKID. RE REP SA SIGURD FLATTA, FEBRUARY TWELVE LAST, MINNEAPOLIS.  
LEAD SET FORTH IN RE REP FOR SAVANNAH OFFICE TO INTERVIEW AND OBTAIN  
SIGNED STATEMENT FROM FORMER SAC MELVIN H. PURVIS AT FLORENCE, SOUTH  
CAROLINA, SHOULD BE HANDLED BY TWO MATURE AND EXPERIENCED AGENTS OF  
YOUR OFFICE. FURNISH BUREAU RESULTS OF INTERVIEW PROMPTLY. IN THE  
EVENT PURVIS NOT LOCATED AT FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA, BUREAU'S INSTRUCTIONS  
CONTAINED HEREIN SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO OFFICE HANDLING THIS INTER-  
VIEW.

HOOVER

cc: 1 - Minneapolis (7-30) (Airmail)  
1 - Cincinnati (7-43) (Airmail)

Bufile 7-576

MTC:smh

NOTE: Subject Volney Davis, who was sentenced in this case (Bremer Kidnaping) on June 7, 1935, to life imprisonment, after entering plea of guilty to charges of kidnaping and conspiracy, filed a petition on December 5, 1952, for release on habeas corpus in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota. Davis based his petition on eight separate points which included, among other things, the allegations that he was not represented by counsel, did not waive this right, was held incommunicado in chains and secrecy following his arrest, and was told by his captors that if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given a term of years rather than a death or life sentence. AUSA Alex Dim, St. Paul, Minnesota, has requested that all Agents who participated in the apprehension, questioning, search, and transportation of Davis, be located and interviewed and signed affidavits obtained. Dim has indicated that upon receipt of the requested affidavits he will review them and determine which Agents will be necessary for the hearing to be held in connection with the habeas corpus proceedings. The Bureau has previously instructed Minneapolis that Bureau approval should be obtained before any former Special Agents are subpoenaed. Former SAC Purvis was in charge of the apprehension of Davis at Chicago and in addition Davis gave a signed waiver of removal to former SAC Purvis.

Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Gandy

INITIALED  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

RECORDED  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 19 1954

TELETYPE

FEB 25 1954

50 FEB 1954

60 MAR 1 1954

4-13pm gal



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (7-576)

DATE: February 23, 1954

FROM : SAC, Cincinnati (7-43)

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was (deceased), et al  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Rerep SA SIGURD FLAATA dated February 12, 1954, at Minneapolis.

Numerous leads have been set forth in referenced report for various divisions in preparation for hearing regarding subject VOLNEY DAVIS. There are, however, no leads outstanding at this time for the Cincinnati Division. The Cincinnati Division has not had any active investigation regarding the above-captioned matter since approximately June, 1951.

In view of the above circumstances, it appears that this matter could be supervised more economically if Minneapolis were designated at this time as office of origin, and accordingly, it is requested that that office be so designated.

RDH:LM

cc: Minneapolis (7-30)

AIC-TEL  
MP 2/24/54  
Designated  
MP as origin  
HRC

RECORDED - 6

EX-126

7-576-1534  
FEB 24 1954  
21 25

Cummins

MAY 2 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 27 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2-27-54

2-42

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

BREKID. RE BUREAU FILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. RE  
MINNEAPOLIS TEL FEBRUARY TWENTY-SIX LAST. FOR INFORMATION  
OF BUREAU THE FOLLOWING LIST OF WITNESSES TO BE FURNISHED

AUSA ALEX DIM, ST. PAUL, ON MARCH ONE, NEXT., SA-S SAMUEL W.  
HARDY, MINNEAPOLIS., RAYMOND C. SURAN, SAN DIEGO., E. E. KUHNEL  
SAN ANTONIO., EARL H. WILLIAMS, OMAHA., MICHAEL CASSIDY, SAN  
FRANCISCO. FORMER AGENTS MELVIN H. PURVIS, FLORENCE, SOUTH  
CAROLINA., MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, PHILADELPHIA., JOHN E. BRENNAN, ST.  
LOUIS., JAMES M. KLAUES, ST. PAUL., HAROLD E. ANDERSEN, WHITTIER,  
CALIFORNIA., HARRY W. STEWART, WEST PALM BEACH, FLA., HAROLD A.  
MARTIN, JACKSONVILLE., FRANK M. HEADLEY, NEW YORK., A. H. JOHNSON,  
CHICAGO. OTHER WITNESSES, GEORGE HEISEN, FORMER ASSISTANT USA,  
MINNEAPOLIS., FOLLOWING RESIDE ST. PAUL, NORTON RISEDORPH, FORMER  
CHIEF JAILER, ST. PAUL., THOMAS GIBBONS, SHERIFF., MRS. VERGINIA  
SCHWEITZ, SECRETARY TO SHERIFF GIBBONS., JOHN C. DECOURCY,  
ATTORNEY., WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, USC., JOSEPH T. LYNCH, FORMER DEPUTY  
CLERK OF COURT., JACK B. MACKAY, ASSOCIATED PRESS., RONALD HAZEL,  
ATTORNEY., EARL MORRISON, CHIEF DEPUTY MARSHAL., LOUIS GOLLOP,

END PAGE ONE

52 MAR 8 1954

RECORDED - 93

MAR 2 1954

Mr. Rosen

CC - Cummings

PAGE TWO

REPORTER., EDWARD I. PICHUA, FORMER COURT BAILIFF, ALEXANDRIA,  
MINNESOTA. J. ROBERT THOMPSON, REPORTER, CHEVY CHASE, MD., CLERK  
OF COURT OF U. S. DISTRICT COURT FOR NORTHERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN DIVISION, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.  
BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

~~CORRECTION PAGE TWO LNE ONE WRD 4 SHD BE PICHUA~~

END AND ACK PLS

3-50 OK FBI WA IS

TU DISC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 23 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS 2-23-54 10-15 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

BREKID. RE BUREAU AIRTEL TO MINNEAPOLIS FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, LAST,

CINCINNATI AIRTEL TO MINNEAPOLIS FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN, LAST MINNEAPOLIS

AIRTEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY EIGHTEEN LAST, AND REPORT OF SA SIGURD

FLAATA FEBRUARY TWELVE, LAST, KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY

NINETEEN, LAST. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, ADVISED TODAY

THAT NO CHANGE IS CONTEMPLATED BY HIS OFFICE FOR HEARING OF VOLNEY

DAVIS, SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY TWENTYSIX, NEXT AT ST. PAUL, MINN. DIM

ADVISED HONORABLE MATTHEW M. JOYCE, JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

HAS ADVISED DIM THAT INSTANT CASE WAS REVIEWED BY JUDGE JOYCE WITH

HONORABLE GUNNAR H. NORDBYE, SENIOR US DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, AND

DECISION MADE THAT JUDGE NORDBYE WILL CONDUCT HEARINGS FOR VOLNEY

DAVIS INASMUCH AS JUDGE JOYCE FURNISHED AN AFFIDAVIT OPPOSING DAVIS

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN NINETEEN FORTY. DIM ADVISED POSS-

IBLY THAT JUDGE JOYCE MAY BE CALLED AS A WITNESS. DIM ALSO ADVISED THAT

LIST OF WITNESSES INCLUDING FORMER AGENTS TO BE SUBPOENAED WILL BE

FURNISHED MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE SHORTLY AFTER HEARING ON FEBRUARY TWENTY-

SIX. FOR INFORMATION OF CINCINNATI, NO LEADS FOR CINCINNATI OFFICE

AT THIS TIME. A REVIEW OF MINNEAPOLIS FILES REFLECT CINCINNATI LAST

OFFICE OF ORIGIN IN THIS CASE AND BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO DESIGNATE

ORIGIN. CINCINNATI ADVISE BY AIR MAIL.

HOWARD

END  
53 MAR 8 1954

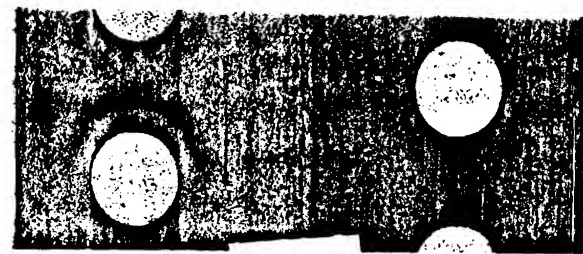
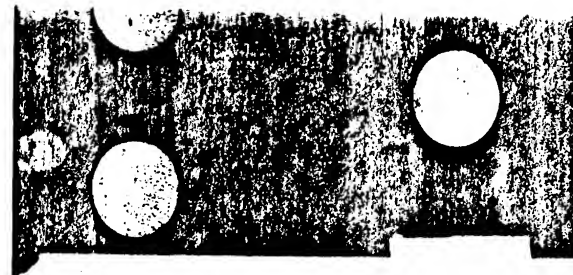
11-21 PM OK FBI WA, BW

DISCM

RECORDED-96

FEB 25 1954

Mr. Rosen



D

JK

MARCH 1, 1954 (URGENT)

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

C

BREKID. REURTEL TODAY. SA A. E. FARLAND, DECEASED APRIL TWENTYTHREE, FORTYSEVEN. SA EDWARD L. COCHRAN CURRENTLY ASSIGNED BALTIMORE.

HOOVER

7-576  
JJC:ab

ha

RECORDED - 101

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MAR 2 1954  
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EB  
R  
JP

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COPIES DESTROYED  
100 MAR 20 1966

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 1 - 1954

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MAR 5 1954

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

3216

AIRTEL  
Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2/27/54

*6 Cummings*

DIRECTOR, FBI

BREKID. RE BUREAU FILE 7-576. RE BUREAU AIRTEL 2/24 LAST  
IN WHICH THE BUREAU DESIGNATED MINNEAPOLIS AS OFFICE OF  
ORIGIN IN THIS CASE AND INSTRUCTED THAT AUXILIARY OFFICES  
BE ADVISED BY AIRTEL OF CHANGE IN OFFICE OF ORIGIN. THE  
CINCINNATI OFFICE IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE MINNEAPOLIS  
DIVISION IF ANY OFFICES IN ADDITION TO THE AUXILIARY  
OFFICES LISTED BELOW SHOULD BE NOTIFIED OF ABOVE AND WHETHER  
CINCINNATI HAS ANY LEADS OUTSTANDING IN THIS CASE.

HOWARD

Mr. Rosen

7-30

SF:sjs

cc: Chicago  
Cincinnati  
Kansas City  
Los Angeles  
Miami  
New York  
Omaha  
Philadelphia  
St. Louis  
San Antonio  
San Diego  
San Francisco  
Savannah  
Washington Field

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EX - 104

*A*  
7-576-15345  
MAR 2 1954

60 MAR 5 1954

Approved: *C. B. Howard*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAN DIEGO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/18/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/17/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RAYMOND C. SURAN jml</b>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was.; et al; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>SA RAYMOND C. SURAN, presently assigned San Diego Office of FBI, assisted in the apprehension and interview of VOLNEY DAVIS at Chicago, Illinois, on June 1, 1935, and was in charge of the group of Special Agents assigned to transport DAVIS from Chicago, Illinois, to St. Paul, Minnesota on June 2, 1935. Actions of agents toward DAVIS were consistent with the necessary precautionary measures to maintain custody of DAVIS and to prevent his possible rescue by the associates of DAVIS who were not in custody. DAVIS given proper clothing to wear in Chicago and no threats or promises were made to him. His arms and legs were never at any time handcuffed or chained to a bed or other object. DAVIS was not denied the services of an attorney but he indicated he might secure the services of "DOC" BARKER's attorney after his removal to St. Paul. Gave voluntary statement concerning his association with so-called KARPIS-BARKER Gang but never admitted direct participation in the BREMER kidnaping while in custody of agents assigned to the Chicago Office.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-RUC-</p> <p><u>DETAILS:</u></p> <p>Special Agent RAYMOND C. SURAN executed the following signed statement:</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>7-576-15346</b> <b>RECORDED-34</b> <b>FEB 23 1954</b> <b>FILED</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (7-576) (AM) 5 - Minneapolis (7-30) (Enc. 1) (AM) (1 - USA, St. Paul) 2 - Cincinnati (7-43) (AM) 1 - San Diego (7-11) (AM)			

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1952-O-210616

16-56355-2



San Diego, California  
February 17, 1954

I, RAYMOND C. SURAN, give the following statement of my own free will concerning my present recollection of the apprehension and detention of VOLNEY DAVIS at Chicago, Illinois, on June 1 and 2, 1935, and the subsequent transportation of DAVIS from Chicago, Illinois, to St. Paul, Minnesota. I have been a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation since September 2, 1930, and was so employed on June 1, 2, and 3, 1935.

At approximately 1:00 PM on June 1, 1935, I proceeded to a point near [redacted] Chicago, Illinois, with MELVIN PURVIS, who was at the time the Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We were also accompanied by Special Agent MICHAEL J. CASSIDY and MAX CHAFFETZ, who was at that time also a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The purpose of this trip was to effect the apprehension of VOLNEY DAVIS, who was known to be under indictment by a Federal Grand Jury in St. Paul, Minnesota, for participation in the kidnaping of EDWARD G. BREMER. b7c b7d

In the vicinity of the above address, we contacted HAROLD A. MARTIN and EARL H. WILLIAMS who were Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on that date. The arrest of DAVIS was effected an hour or so after our arrival near the Waller Street address. DAVIS was immediately handcuffed and placed in an automobile to be transported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in the Bankers Building, Chicago, Illinois, by PURVIS, CASSIDY, myself, and probably one other agent. I recall that almost immediately after the trip was started for the office DAVIS made a remark to the effect that he hoped we would not hold against him the fact that he had a few months before escaped from two Special Agents whom he presumed got into trouble over the escape as he had read something to that effect in the newspaper. He also stated that this escape was not the first he had made from the "law" and that he had been successful in making other escapes but I do not recall further details of his remarks. I do have knowledge that DAVIS had the reputation of being an "escape artist" and his record showed that he had in the past been involved in capital offenses. It is my recollection that for these reasons PURVIS issued instructions that every precaution be taken to prevent the escape of DAVIS and to prevent his liberation by other persons who were involved in the kidnaping of Mr. BREMER and who were still at large.

After the arrival at the Chicago Office, DAVIS was turned over to other agents to be carefully searched and thereafter he was interviewed by CHAFFETZ and myself. I am unable to describe at this date the clothing DAVIS was wearing during this interview but I am certain he was furnished with wearing apparel other than his own, that this wearing apparel was not incriminated with blood and dirt but was sanitary and clean. I do not recall whether leg irons were on DAVIS during the course of the interview but I can positively state that at no time during this interview or at no time in my presence was DAVIS handcuffed to a bed or any other object and at no time during this interview or in my presence were his legs fastened to a bed or any other object.

During the course of the interview, DAVIS voluntarily made a statement alleged by him to contain true information concerning his association with the so-called KARPIS-BARKER Gang without admitting his direct participation in the kidnapping of Mr. BREMER. He was made no promises by me or by others in my presence and at no time did he request to contact an attorney but I do recall that he made some remarks that if he was to be immediately removed to St. Paul, Minnesota, he would think about whether he might contact "DOC" BARKER's attorney.

It is noted DAVIS alleges that some agent made the statement "We are all lawyers and will take care of you." This statement was never made by me or in my presence by any other agent. Likewise he was not told by me or by any agent in my presence that the last man that asked for a lawyer went through a window.

During the time DAVIS was being interviewed he was given food and permitted to rest on a cot. I have no present recollection of the number of times he ate or the length of time he was permitted to rest. It is my present recollection that Mr. PURVIS was seriously concerned about the possibility that an attempt might be made to liberate DAVIS and as Mr. PURVIS termed it he did not want another "Kansas City massacre" and he thoroughly instructed the agents assigned to the case of the responsibility that was theirs in maintaining safe custody of DAVIS. For this reason it was not desired to transport DAVIS in a regularly scheduled common carrier. It is my recollection that there was considerable delay in securing a chartered plane for the transfer of DAVIS to St. Paul. I do not recall whether the delay was because of unavailability of the plane or because of adverse weather reports.

I recall that PURVIS designated me to take charge of the assignment of removing DAVIS from Chicago to St. Paul. I secured a waiver of removal from DAVIS. DAVIS voluntarily executed this waiver. The details of this document are not available to me at the time of the preparation of this statement and I do not recall the wording of the waiver. Sometime during the late afternoon of June 2, 1935, we were successful in chartering a plane at the Chicago Airport. I do not recall the name of the company from whom we chartered the plane. I was accompanied on the transfer of DAVIS by Special Agents MICHAEL J. CASSIDY, ERNEST E. KUHNEL, and former Special Agents EARL H. WILLIAMS and H. W. STEWART. I do not remember the identity of the agent who drove us to the airport or whether blinds were drawn in the car. I do not recall that the car was so equipped but I am of the opinion that possibly the rear window only had a blind on it and it is possible that this blind could have been drawn.

En route to St. Paul in the chartered plane, we encountered inclement weather and the pilot, name not recalled, decided to land at an airport at or near Madison, Wisconsin. We were delayed at this airport for more than six hours during which time we made two unsuccessful attempts to continue the journey. Handcuffs and leg irons were on DAVIS from the time we left the Chicago Office until we turned him over to the custody of HAROLD E. ANDERSEN who was then Special Agent in Charge of the St. Paul Office.

On one of the occasions while we were grounded at the airport DAVIS made several requests to have his handcuffs removed in order that he would be more comfortable when he went to the toilet. These requests were denied.

When the plane finally proceeded to St. Paul, DAVIS admitted to me that if his handcuffs had been removed he would have tried to escape and recalled that the last time agents had tried to transport him in an airplane he had been successful in escaping and he thought that he might do so again.

We arrived at St. Paul in the early morning of June 3, 1935, probably 5:00 or 6:00 AM and I had no further contact with DAVIS subsequent to the time I turned him over to the custody of Special Agent in Charge ANDERSEN and other agents from the St. Paul Office.

---

RAYMOND C. SURAN  
Special Agent, FBI

SD 7-11

ENCLOSURE: TO MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE

Original signed statement of Special Agent  
RAYMOND C. SURAN.

- R U C -

SD 7-11

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2/12/54.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CINCINNATI**

REPORT MADE AT <b>OMAHA, NEBRASKA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/22/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/18/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>EARL H. WILLIAMS</b> <span style="float: right;">jmg</span>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, Was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, Was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, Was.; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Signed statement furnished by SA EARL H. WILLIAMS, Omaha Office, FBI, regarding arrest of VOLNEY DAVIS at Chicago, Illinois, on 6/1/35, and his transportation to St. Paul, Minnesota, on 6/2/35, secured and set forth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC - <span style="float: right;">(no)</span></p> <p><b>DETAILS: At Des Moines, Iowa</b></p> <p>SA EARL H. WILLIAMS furnished a signed statement regarding his knowledge of the arrest of VOLNEY DAVIS in Chicago, Illinois on June 1, 1935, and his transportation to St. Paul, Minnesota, on June 2, 1935. This statement is being set forth as follows:</p> <p>"STATEMENT MADE BY SPECIAL AGENT EARL H. WILLIAMS, OMAHA OFFICE, FBI, DATED FEBRUARY 18, 1954.</p> <p>"I, Earl H. Williams, 720-4th Street, West Des Moines, Iowa, a special agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, Omaha, Nebraska, make the following voluntary signed statement regarding my knowledge concerning the arrest and transportation of Volney Davis in June, 1935.</p> <p>"I state that I am an agent of the FBI and have been since March 19, 1934. I state that in May and June, 1935, I was assigned as said agent to the Chicago Office, FBI. I state that on or about May 29, 1935, I was assigned to an investigation in Chicago,</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 - Bureau (7-576) (AM)</li> <li>2 - Minneapolis (7-30) (1-USA, St. Paul) (AM)</li> <li>2 - Cincinnati (7-43) (AM)</li> <li>1 - Omaha (7-4)</li> </ul>		<p><b>EXP. PROC.</b></p> <p><b>7-576-15347</b></p> <p><b>FEB 23 1954</b></p> <p><b>RECORDED-34</b></p> <p><i>[Stamps and signatures]</i></p>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

"Illinois relating to the location and possible apprehension of Volney Davis who was wanted as a participant in the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer in St. Paul, Minnesota. I was ordered on this assignment by the then Special Agent in Charge Melvin L. Purvis. I was instructed to assist Special Agent H. A. Martin and the purpose of the assignment was to determine if Davis appeared at an address in Chicago known as 1046 North Weller Avenue.

"I state that this assignment continued May 29, May 30, May 31, 1935 without receiving any information or developing any information regarding Volney Davis. I state that on the afternoon of June 1, 1935 at approximately 2:30 PM information was furnished to SA H. A. Martin to the effect that Davis might appear at the 1046 North Weller Avenue address. Martin contacted the Chicago Office, FBI, advising of the possible appearance of Davis and requested assistance. Shortly thereafter SA Martin and myself proceeded in an automobile belonging to the FBI to the vicinity of 1046 North Weller Avenue. Martin did the driving while I made some preparations to effect Davis' apprehension should no assistance arrive.

"After SA Martin and myself arrived near the Weller Avenue address, we proceeded on north past the address and across an intersection. We turned around and came on back toward Weller Avenue address and parked the car on the northwest corner of the intersection where we awaited the possible appearance of Davis. SA Martin and myself had taken about fifteen or twenty minutes to get into position. We then waited about five more minutes until about 2:55 PM when we noticed a small Ford roadster, red in color, coming up the street from the south in our direction. We had previously been supplied the license number of the Davis car. It was supposed to bear Georgia license plates with #'s 37216C. As this car approached it was possible for SA Martin and myself to observe that it bore the Georgia license plate. Agent's car was parked close to the intersection and headed in a southerly direction down the street. Agents noticed the Ford roadster approach the intersection and instead of proceeding on past agent's car it made a U turn and drove south and parked in front of the address at 1046 North Weller Avenue. As this car was making this U turn the driver of the car was visible and easily observed. Both SA Martin and myself readily identified Volney Davis as the driver of this car. I had never seen Davis in person but from photographs in possession of agents there was no question but that it was Davis. I observed Davis park his car get out and walk into the house at 1046 North Weller Avenue.

"At approximately 3:05 PM, June 1, 1935 SAC Melvin Purvis and Special Agents Max Chaffetz, M. J. Cassidy, R. C. Suran arrived. At this time



"SA Martin and myself apprised SAC Purvis of the situation and that Davis was at that moment in the house. I was instructed by SAC Purvis to go with SA Chaffetz to the rear of the house at 1046 North Weller Avenue to prevent any possible escape in that direction. Chaffetz and myself awaited about five or ten minutes and then heard some commotion or shouting in the front of the house. From our position I could see alongside of the house into Weller Avenue but I could not see anything that went on in front of the house to where Davis' car was parked. Upon receiving information that Davis had come out of the house and gone to his automobile SA Chaffetz and myself immediately proceeded to the front of the house and to the place Davis had parked his car.

"At the scene of the Davis car I observed that Davis was surrounded and in custody of SAC Purvis and Agents Suran, Cassidy and Martin. I arrived within a couple of minutes after he had been taken into custody. I observed Davis standing beside his car. He was immaculately dressed and gave no appearance of having his clothing disarranged in any manner whatsoever. I observed no confusion at this point. SAC Purvis instructed SA Martin to take the Davis car to the Clark-Van Buren Garage and he instructed SA Chaffetz to follow the other FBI car. After these instructions were given Davis was handcuffed and led to an awaiting FBI car. SA Cassidy occupied the driver's seat and I sat in the front seat on the right. The back seat was occupied by SAC Purvis and SA R. C. Suran with Davis in the middle. Davis did not appear to be alarmed or excited in any way. He talked in a calm fashion. I would state that from the time Davis walked out of the house until he was captured and placed in the automobile for transportation to the Chicago Office, FBI, would occupy a period of about twenty-five minutes at the most.

"On the way to the Chicago Office, FBI, I had an occasion to talk to Davis. I asked him if he had noticed SA Martin and myself parked at the intersection as he turned around to park in front of the 1046 North Weller Avenue address. He stated that he had never noticed the agents. On several occasions he remarked that he would like to know how the FBI had learned that he would be at 1046 North Weller Avenue on that date. On one occasion I recall he stated that he knew he shouldn't have talked to that 'girl' and that he felt that something was going to happen that day. I recall he remarked that this was to be the last time that he was going to see the girl at the Weller Avenue address. I recall he stated that he usually had appeared at the Weller Avenue address immediately after he called but that he had on this occasion broken his routine. He stated that he had telephoned the Weller Avenue address and had then sat down and eaten his dinner. He indicated that he had ordered a good meal and that he had taken his time to eat it.

"From the time Davis was placed in the FBI car until he was delivered at the Chicago Office FBI was approximately twenty or thirty minutes. Davis was taken to the rear of the Bankers Building where the Chicago Office was housed. He was taken into the back door and into a freight elevator. He was not taken into the building and up the public entrance or elevators. During the entire trip Davis seemed content that he was finally captured and did not have to worry about being taken. He did not talk much but when he did he joked or seemed relieved that it was over.

"After Davis was taken to the 19th floor of the Bankers Building he was taken to a room to await further disposition. I had nothing further to do with him and had no part in questioning him. I do not recall to whom he was placed in custody after arrival at the Chicago Office. I do recall that when I last saw him somewhere around 4PM, June 1, 1935 he presented a neat appearance and he seemed to be under no strain whatsoever.

"I state that I next saw Davis, so far as I can recall, sometime around 3PM on June 2, 1935. I was instructed by SAC Melvin Purvis to assist in the transportation of Davis from Chicago, Illinois to St. Paul, Minnesota. He stated that Davis was to be transported by airplane.

"Immediately thereafter I assisted in bringing Volney Davis from the Chicago Office, FBI, to the elevator (freight) and out the rear door to an awaiting FBI car. I recall on this occasion there was present beside Davis the following agents: R. G. Suran who was in charge of delivering Davis to St. Paul, Minnesota, M. J. Cassidy, E. E. Kuhnel, H. W. Stewart, F. M. Headley and myself. At the time that I saw Davis on the afternoon of June 2, 1935 he appeared to me to be rested and gave the appearance of one not under any strain. I recall no indication that he had undergone any abuse of any kind whatsoever. He still gave a well dressed appearance, was clean shaven and did not appear to be regretting his experience in any way.

"I did not ride with Davis to the airport. I do not know who the agents were who transported him to the airport. I rode in another FBI car. I do not recall who accompanied me in that car. I did observe the FBI car in which Davis was taken to the airport. At the time I observed the car there were no drawn curtains or any other means taken to conceal the occupants of the car. Davis was handcuffed for safe transportation to the airport but he had no other means of restraint so far as I could observe.

"On arrival at the Chicago airport there was a chartered plane awaiting Davis. We all went aboard and Davis took a seat near the front of the plane

"on the right side. The other seven agents seated themselves about the plane within close proximity to Davis. I was seated behind Davis on the same side as he was seated but about two seats back of Davis. Davis made no objections to his being taken to St. Paul, Minnesota. He was handcuffed until he got aboard the plane. Davis did not ask for any food, rest room privileges or make any other demands from the Chicago Office to the airport.

"At about the time the plane was ready to take off at the airport I believe SA Suran told Davis that he would remove his handcuffs. I believe that Davis rode all the rest of the way to St. Paul without cuffs. As the plane neared Madison, Wisconsin we ran into a heavy storm. We landed at Madison. I do not know when we got to Madison but I do know that it was dark and rainy. I suppose it might have been somewhere around 7 or 8PM. At about the time we landed I recall that someone, my recollection is that it was SA Suran, asked Davis if we could get him anything to eat in Madison or whether we could do him any good in Madison. I remember that Davis joked about his situation and remarked that the only good the FBI could do him was to put him out in an open field and give him either a hundred yards start or ten minutes start. Davis so far as I know did not ask for or obtain anything to eat in Madison. He was asked if he wanted food but so far as I can recall he turned it down.

"I recall we were several hours in Madison and that after about three starts the plane was finally able to raise and take off. I cannot recall whether Davis left the plane or not but my recollection is that he remained on the plane.

"I recollect that we left Madison sometime around 3AM, June 3, 1935. I remember arriving at the Chamberlain-Wold Airport, St. Paul-Minneapolis after daylight. I believe it was sometime around 5:30 AM or 6 AM. At the airport Davis was turned over to agents from the St. Paul Office. I then boarded the plane and returned to Chicago.

"I recall that when Davis surrendered at the St. Paul airport that he did not look too well rested but then neither did the agents. He had been subjected to no more physical abuse in staying up than had the accompanying agents, none of whom had secured any rest on the flight.

"I state that to my knowledge at no time did Davis request the use of a telephone or demand the services of an attorney. At no time in my presence was there ever a discussion of the crime for which Davis was being held and no promises were ever made to secure the cooperation of Davis. I state

"that at no time in my presence were any threats made against or promises made to Davis. I state that at no time did I, or any agent in my presence, ever say to Davis, 'We are all lawyers and we will take care of you.' At no time did I ever hear Davis complain about inadequate food, lack of clothing, loss of sleep or any mistreatment.

"I state that I have read the forgoing statement consisting of this and three other typewritten pages which I have signed and initialed and state that everything therein contained is true and correct to the best of my recollection.

S/ Earl H. Williams"

The foregoing statement is being placed in the Omaha file of instant case.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA SIGURD FLA<sup>am</sup> dated 2/12/54 at Minneapolis.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAVANNAH</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/23/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/19,20/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>KENNERLY R. CORBETT</b> <span style="float: right;">dl</span>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (Deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (Deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, ETAL EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Former SAC MELVIN H. PURVIS denies knowledge of any inhuman treatment accorded VOLNEY DAVIS either at the time he was arrested or during confinement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA</u></p> <p>MELVIN H. PURVIS, 1356 Cherokee Road, former Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, furnished the following signed statement of his recollections of the case involving VOLNEY DAVIS:</p> <p>"Florence, South Carolina.....February 20, 1954.</p> <p>"I, Melvin H. Purvis, do hereby voluntarily and of my own free will and accord made this statement to Kennerly R. Corbett and Lionel L. J. Meunier, whom I know to be special agents of the F. B. I.</p> <p>"I was special agent in charge of the Chicago office of the F. B. I. on June 1, 1935 and up through August of the same year. I held this official position during the period of time when the case of Volney Davis was being investigated. I supervised the investigation and apprehension of Volney Davis who was charged with conspiracy to violate the federal kidnapping</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>③ - BUREAU (7-576) (AM)</p> <p>2 - CINCINNATI (7-43) (AM)</p> <p>3 - MINNEAPOLIS (7-30) (AM)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(1 - USA, St. Paul)</p> <p>1 - SAVANNAH (7-2)</p>		<p style="text-align: right;">RECORDED-34</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FEB 24 1954</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PERS. FILES</p>	

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statutes.

"I recall that Volney Davis was arrested by special agents of the F. B. I. including myself, on or about June 1, 1935, in a residential area of Chicago. Previous to the date of his arrest the F. B. I. had maintained a surveillance of the house to which he was expected to pay a visit. Upon notification of his arrival at this house I, with several other special agents proceeded there-to and certain special agents were stationed at the rear of this house, others were stationed in front and in automobiles for the purpose of completely surrounding same and capturing him. Special agent R. C. Suran was stationed in front of the next neighboring house, to the house, in which Davis was located. I was stationed in front of the next house to the North. Within a few minutes after this, Volney Davis started to leave the house, in which he was visiting. Special agent R. C. Suran and I observed his movements toward his car, and proceeded to converge on Davis, so that it happened the Suran and I arrived at the person of Davis and his automobile at the same time. In our efforts to capture Davis, we grabbed for his arms and told him to put his hands up, he stumbled and fell with his shoulders hitting the floor board of his car, the door of which was open. Davis made efforts to rise and in doing so his arm struck the arm of Suran and by some accident the weapon (pistol) of Suran was discharged, hitting no one and causing no injury. Immediately the other special agents arrived at the scene and Davis was placed in an automobile and transported to the Chicago offices of the F. B. I. My recollection is, he was handcuffed, in normal fashion, as soon as possible after arrest.

"Upon arrival at the Office with Davis, special agent R. C. Suran was instructed to search Davis, with the assistance of other special agents. He was also instructed to follow our normal procedures. I visited from time to time, the office in which these steps were taken.

"I have been told that Volney Davis has stated that he was treated in an inhumane manner by being deprived of food, by being chained to a cot or radiator pipe, and being furnished unclean clothing, not being allowed to make phone calls and not being allowed to contact an attorney, and was kept awake for forty (40) hours under continuing questioning.



"Naturally in view of my position, I could not and did not perform all the work on this case. I gave it as close supervision as was possible and I saw Volney Davis on several occasions while he was in our office, and at no time did I observe any inhumane treatment and at no time, did I instruct any employee of the F. B. I. to give him inhumane treatment, or to deprive him of food, or to deprive him of his constitutional rights.

"With regard to statements made by Volney Davis, to the effect that various promises were made to him, such as a promise that he would be given a short term of years if he would plead guilty, I did not make any promise of this sort and I know of none being made by any other employee of the F. B. I. It was always our policy to make no promises with regard to such things to any person involved.

"I do not recall whether Volney Davis asked me for permission to call an attorney, but I know I did not refuse such permission. I did not tell Volney Davis that I or any other special agent would act as his lawyer. I do not recall what arrangements were made for clothing and food for Davis, but I do know that he was treated in a normal manner.

"I have read the above statement consisting of three (3) pages and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

"/s/ Melvin H. Purvis

MELVIN H. PURVIS

MP/wc

"Witness:

"/s/ Kennerly R. Corbett, Special Agent, FBI, Savannah, Ga.

"/s/ Lionel L. J. Meunier, Special Agent, FBI, Savannah, Ga."

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- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE:

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, Minneapolis, 2/12/54.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT MIAMI, FLORIDA	DATE WHEN MADE 2/24/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/16-19/54	REPORT MADE BY JOHN RILEY SMITH :mj
TITLE ALVIN KARPIS, was., (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was., (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was. ETAL: EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Former Special Agent HAROLD A. MARTIN, Jacksonville, Florida, submitted signed statement in which he stated he was present during the apprehension of VOLNEY DAVIS at Chicago, Illinois. MARTIN stated he saw no mistreatment of DAVIS during or after the apprehension and never made any promises or threats to DAVIS. Former Special Agent HARRY W. STEWART in a signed statement denied any mistreatment of DAVIS during the apprehension or following the apprehension.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RUC</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> <u>AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA</u></p> <p>Mr. HAROLD A. MARTIN, 1790 Pine Grove Avenue, Manager Industrial Department of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, furnished the following signed statement concerning his knowledge of the arrest of VOLNEY DAVIS:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"February 19, 1954</p> <p>"I, Harold A. Martin, make the following statement to Special Agent John Riley Smith of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.</p> <p>"I was formerly employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent, and served in that capacity from November 1934 until November 1939. In the spring of 1935, while working on the Barker-Karpis case, I assisted in the apprehension of one Volney Davis on North Waller Street in Chicago, Illinois, on June 1st of that year. Special Agent E. H. Williams and I had been waiting for several</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
<p style="text-align: center;">3/2/54</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>② - Bureau (7-576)</li> <li>3 - Minneapolis (7-30) (1 USA, St. Paul)</li> <li>2 - Cincinnati (7-43)</li> <li>1 - Miami (7-24)</li> </ul>		<p>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">17-576-15349</p> <p>FEB 28 1954</p> <p>3-4</p> <p>RECORDED-34</p> <p>FILED</p>	

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"days for a telephone call from Miss Helen Byrnes, 1046 North Waller St. While waiting we were living in a rented room nearby. On June 1st, she called and informed me that Volney Davis would be at her home in about one half an hour. This information was immediately relayed by me to the Chicago Bureau Office. Following this, Special Agent Williams and I proceeded with the Bureau car to the intersection of Waller and Thomas Streets where at approximately 2:55 P.M. we observed a Ford V-8 coupe driven by the subject Volney Davis which he parked immediately in front of Miss Byrnes' home. Davis went into Miss Byrnes' home and while he was still in there, Special Agent in Charge Melvin H. Purvis arrived, accompanied by several other agents of the Bureau. Purvis and Special Agent Suran took a position between two neighboring houses where they could observe me. I had driven the Bureau car into a position shortly behind the Ford which was being driven by the subject where I could command a clear view of the house. When Miss Byrnes and the subject came out of the house I gave the signal to Purvis and Suran. My present recollection is that Suran, in taking the subject into custody just as he was opening his car door, pushed Davis into the car and a shot was fired. There was no other altercation and Davis was quickly handcuffed, placed in the Bureau car and taken to the Chicago Bureau Office. I was instructed by Special Agent in Charge Purvis to take Davis' car to Clark-Van Buren Garage where it was to be searched and examined for fingerprints. I was assisted in the search by Special Agent Max Chaffetz. I also collected the heavier fire arms from the other agents at the scene and returned them to the Bureau Office in the subject's car.

"I have no present recollection of seeing the subject Davis subsequent to that time except momentarily while he was in custody at the Chicago Bureau Office. I have no recollection of how long he was kept at the Chicago Office.

"At no time during the arrest or subsequent thereto have I ever had any conversations with Volney Davis. It is my recollection from the momentary glance that I had of him during the period of his custody at the Chicago Office that he was shackled with leg irons and handcuffs. I have no recollection that these shackles were attached to a cot, pipe, radiator or any other piece of furniture or fixture. I have no knowledge of whether he was allowed visitors or permitted to see anyone during this period of custody. I never heard Davis make any request to make a phone call or to see a lawyer. It is my recollection that at the time of the arrest there was no resistance on the part of Davis.

"I can categorically deny that I made any promises to Davis of any sort or ever told him that "We are all lawyers and we will take care of you." Since I have no recollection of every having guarded Davis while in custody I cannot testify regarding food and refreshments furnished him during the period of his custody in the F.B.I. Office.

"I have read the above statement consisting of two (2) pages, of which this is the second (2nd) and last page, and acknowledge it to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief."

/s/  
Harold A. Martin"

Witness:

JOHN RILEY SMITH, FBI, Miami, Florida.

Mr. MARTIN stated that in his opinion VOLNEY DAVIS was completely surprised when placed under arrest. He believes that DAVIS threw up his hands as he fell back into the car and that his hand hit the gun hand of Special Agent SMITH causing the gun to be discharged in the car. He stated that he did not see any mistreatment of DAVIS during the arrest or following the arrest.

AT WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

This investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT W. WISEMAN:

Mr. HARRY W. STEWART, Law firm of Wardlaw and Stewart, 1401 Harvey Building, furnished the following signed statement concerning his knowledge of the arrest of VOLNEY DAVIS:

"West Palm Beach, Florida  
February 19, 1954

"I, Harry W. Stewart, Jr., do hereby make the following true and voluntary statement to Robert W. Wiseman who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I reside at 225 El Pueblo Way, Palm Beach, Florida, and am a member of the law firm of Wardlaw & Stewart with offices at 1401 Harvey Building, West Palm Beach, Florida.

"My recollection of events surrounding the arrest of Volney Davis, a Federal fugitive, in Chicago, Illinois, during June 1935, is as follows:

"I was then a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned to the Chicago office. On a Saturday, about June 1, 1935, our Chicago office received information that Volney Davis was in town and expected to visit a girl friend, name and address not recalled other than in Austin, in metropolitan Chicago, at her apartment and was expected to take this girl friend to a beauty shop, address not recalled but not far distant from her apartment. I was assigned to go to the beauty shop. Later we were informed that Volney Davis had been arrested by our agents at his girl friend's apartment and to return to the Chicago office. Davis was arrested during the afternoon at approximately 3 o'clock, to my recollection.

"Upon my return to our office I was assigned, with a group of other agents, to serve a shift as guard for Davis. I remained at the office until the early morning of the following day, Sunday, and looked in upon Davis off and on during this time. Davis was being held in a private office at headquarters and to my recollection was not restrained by handcuffs or other devices other than the watchfulness of the agents. Davis's attitude was most co-operative, pleasant and friendly at all times. I recall hearing Davis say on one occasion that it was a relief to be picked up, that he was thinking of turning himself in because he was tired of running. I have no recollection that Davis was ever shackled to a cot, radiator or otherwise during the time he was at the Chicago office. At no time in my presence did Davis ask to use a phone or to call an attorney nor were promises made to Davis that if he entered a plea of guilty he would get a term of years, nor did anyone make the statement to Davis "we are all lawyers and we will take care of you." Neither, in my presence, was Davis refused food, refreshments, or sleep when he so desired, and I have a faint recollection of having seen food on a tray upon the table.

"As previously stated, I went off duty during the very early morning of Sunday and was re-called to the Chicago office that evening to be a member of a squad of six agents who were to transport Volney Davis to St. Paul, Minnesota. We left Chicago that evening by private plane and Davis was transported handcuffed and with leg irons. I sat in the seat directly in front of Davis and during the entire trip he was quite pleasant and uncomplaining except as to the

"very bumpy nature of the ride when we encountered extremely bad weather conditions. The weather forced us to make two emergency landings at an airport at Madison, Wisconsin. The first time we were grounded for about an hour and then departed, but were forced to return after about 20 or 30 minutes in the air, and this time we remained grounded until near day break. Davis made no complaints during the trip other than as to the weather and roughness of the ride, and slept a good part of the time our plane was on the ground. During one part of the grounded waiting period, Davis was taken out of the plane at his request so he could urinate, stretch his legs and get some fresh air, the roughness of the ride having made his stomach uneasy. He was talkative and in a good humor during this rest interval. We were finally able to leave about day break on Monday arriving shortly thereafter at the U. S. Naval Air Station in Minneapolis, Minnesota and turned Davis over to agents of our St. Paul, Minnesota FBI office.

"I have read this statement of two pages and it is true and correct to the best of my recollection."

"HARRY W. STEWART JR."

Witness:

ROBERT W. WISEMAN, Special Agent, FBI, Miami, Florida, February 19, 1954.

These signed statements are being maintained in the case file at Miami.

RUC



REFERENCE

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, 2/12/54, Minneapolis.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CINCINNATI

PHM

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/25/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/19, 23, 24/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>EUGENE R. CLARK, JR.</b>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Former SA HEADLEY furnished signed statement concerning his recollection of the apprehension and transportation of VOLNEY DAVIS. HEADLEY did not participate in the actual apprehension or interrogation of DAVIS; however, he recalls that DAVIS was handcuffed and put in leg irons while detained in the Chicago Office and while being transported to St. Paul. HEADLEY stated that DAVIS was treated as another fugitive and recalls that he was fed several occasions while in his presence. At no time while in HEADLEY'S presence did DAVIS request an attorney nor were any promises made to DAVIS in his presence. Investigation in NY reflects former SA ANDERSON presently residing in Whittier, California.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> On February 24, 1954, FRANK M. HEADLEY was interviewed by SA JOHN W. JOYCE and the writer, at which time he furnished the following signed statement concerning his recollection of VOLNEY DAVIS at the time of his capture in Chicago on June 1, 1935:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">New York, N.Y. February 24, 1954</p> <p>"I, Frank M. Headley, made the following free and voluntary statement to John W. Joyce and Eugene R. Clark, Jr., who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize that this statement may be used in a court of law.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (7-561) 1 - USA, St. Paul 2 - Cincinnati (7-43) 2 - Minneapolis (7-30) 2 - New York (7-120) <b>6 MAR 8 1954</b>		<b>7-567-15350</b> <b>RECORDED-3</b> <b>FEB 26 1954</b> <b>20 3-4</b>	
		[Handwritten signatures and initials]	

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"I am President of H-R Representatives, Inc., 380 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., and I was formerly employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from January, 1934 through December, 1936.

"I was assigned to the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under Special Agent in charge, Melvin Purvis, during the period approximately March 25 through August 15, 1935.

"On Saturday afternoon, June 1, I was assigned with several other agents to assist in the apprehension of Volney Davis. I was not immediately present at the time of his apprehension, but was in the general vicinity. After Davis was apprehended, we joined the other agents who had made the capture, and all returned to the office. He was taken to one of the rooms in the office where he was hand-cuffed and leg irons put on him. This was done as a precautionary measure because Davis had previously escaped from agents of the Bureau some time previously.

"I was not in attendance during the time of his interrogation, which lasted until the following day. During the time he was there, he was provided with sleeping facilities and food. We left the office sometime in the middle of the afternoon on Sunday, June 2, and took him out to the Chicago airport, where the office had arranged for a chartered airplane to fly him to St. Paul. All the time he was in the airplane, he was hand-cuffed and in leg irons, for security reasons. En route to St. Paul, we were delayed six or seven hours at Madison, Wisconsin because of bad weather conditions; however, while on the ground at the airport in Madison, food was provided to him. We completed the trip to St. Paul, arriving there Monday morning, June 3, at about 9:00 AM. He was immediately turned over to Special Agents from the St. Paul office who were there with cars to transport him into town.

"At no time when I was present do I recall his making any request to see an attorney, nor were any promises made to him in my presence that if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given leniency.

"At all times that he was in my custody he was treated as any other fugitive and was accorded all privileges commensurate with the situation.

"I have read the above statement and it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/ Frank M. Headley

"Witnessed:

Eugene R. Clark, Jr., Special Agent, F.B.I., 2/24/54 at NYC.  
John W. Joyce, Special Agent, F.B.I., 2/24/54 at NYC."

In addition to the above statement, HEADLEY advised that he was not actually assigned to the case and that he merely assisted in the apprehension and transportation of the subject, VOLNEY DAVIS.

HEADLEY explained that he could not recall whether DAVIS was represented by counsel, arraigned before a United States Commissioner, or whether he was advised of his constitutional rights, inasmuch as he did not sit-in on the interrogation of DAVIS.

HEADLEY advised that he did not recall whether DAVIS was shackled to a cot, pipe, or radiator while being held in the Chicago Office of the Bureau. HEADLEY stated that at no time while DAVIS was in his presence did he hear anyone make the statement "We are all lawyers and we will take care of you."

Investigation at New York City reflects that former SA HAROLD E. ANDERSON is presently employed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, Box 311, Whittier, California, and that he presently resides at 546 Tedemory Drive, Whittier, California.

The signed statement by HEADLEY is being retained as an exhibit in instant file.

-EUC-

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

LOS ANGELES

At Los Angeles, California

Will interview former SA HAROLD E. ANDERSON as set forth in NY air-tel, 2/19/54.

Will interview SA ANDERSON according to lead set out in report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, Minneapolis, 2/12/54, a copy of which was forwarded to Los Angeles by referenced air-tel.

REFERENCES: Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, Minneapolis, 2/12/54.  
Minneapolis teletype to Bureau, cc NY, 2/18/54.  
Bureau air-tel to Cincinnati, cc NY, 2/18/54.  
NY air-tel to Los Angeles, 2/19/54.  
NY teletype to Bureau, 2/19/54.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT MINNEAPOLIS

FILE No.

REPORT MADE AT MINNEAPOLIS	DATE WHEN MADE 2/25/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/11, 15-19, 23/54	REPORT MADE BY SIGURD FLAATA	DMD
TITLE VOLNEY DAVIS, was.; ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>GEORGE HEISEY, former AUSA, stated he handled prosecution of defendants who entered pleas of not guilty in instant case and that GEORGE SULLIVAN, USA (deceased) represented government at arraignment and sentencing of VOLNEY DAVIS. HEISEY stated that he interviewed VOLNEY DAVIS' girlfriend EDNA MURRAY who became witness for government; however, advised he made no promises to EDNA MURRAY that VOLNEY DAVIS would receive light sentence if plea of guilty entered. HEISEY advised no information ever came to him indicating any mistreatment of DAVIS or any violation of DAVIS' constitutional rights by anyone. NORTON RISEDORPH, former chief jailer, Ramsey County Jail, stated DAVIS incarcerated Ramsey County Jail 6/3-13/35 and that on day of departure for Leavenworth Penitentiary DAVIS shook hands with RISEDORPH and thanked him for kind and courteous treatment received. RISEDORPH stated that not once during ten days in custody did DAVIS make any complaint concerning treatment received at hands of Bureau agents and made no complaints that he had ever been denied right to call an attorney. JOHN C. DE COURCY, attorney, reaffirmed his affidavit and stated DAVIS, when interviewed at Ramsey County Jail, advised he did not want an attorney. Signed statements reaffirming affidavits obtained from JOHN C. DE COURCY, WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, JAMES M. KLEES, JOSEPH T. LYNCH, JACK B. MACKAY and EDWARD R. PICHA. PICHA, former court bailiff, advised he was hired as guard by USM and was handcuffed and leg-ironed to DAVIS on trip to Leavenworth Penitentiary. PICHA stated that as train was passing over a bridge DAVIS told him he would have taken "a dive" through the train window into the river if he wasn't manacled. PICHA also stated DAVIS threatened "to get him" on arrival at Leavenworth after PICHA pointed out DAVIS to prison officials as having something in his hands which was determined to be a piece of watch spring. USM Office, St. Paul, advised all deputies assignment lists prior to 1940 destroyed. RONALD HAZEL, attorney, St. Paul, advised he recalled attending arraignment of DAVIS and</p>				
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
<p>66H</p> <p>4 in Pers. 3-4-54</p> <p>3 Bureau (7-576) (AMSD) 3/2/54</p> <p>1 - USA, St. Paul 1 cc to DEPT</p> <p>2 - Cincinnati (7-43) 1 cc to dmc</p> <p>2 - Chicago</p> <p>2 - Washington Field</p> <p>5 - Minneapolis (7-30)</p>		<p>7-1576-15351 RECORDED-34</p> <p>MAR 2 1954</p> <p>PERS. FILES</p>		

67 MAR 8 1954

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SYNOPSIS CONTINUED

advised indictment read to DAVIS and that DAVIS told the court he did not want an attorney. Victim EDWARD GEORGE BREMER stated he was unable to recall whether he was in court at arraignment and sentencing of VOLNEY DAVIS and unable to recall any conversation with DAVIS. LOUIS GOLLOP, reporter, stated he wrote article "I can't Win" which appeared St. Paul "Daily News", June 3, 1935, wherein DAVIS stated that he had considered giving himself up six months before his apprehension. GOLLOP stated "Daily News" out of business and no records available to reflect reporters assignments in 1935. Identification record for VOLNEY DAVIS, FBI 400-441, set out.

- P -

DETAILS:

At Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota

Mr. GEORGE HEISEY, referee in bankruptcy, 309 Old Post Office, Minneapolis, advised that he was an Assistant United States Attorney in St. Paul in the Department of Justice in 1935. Mr. HEISEY stated that he handled the major portion of the trial work of the United States Attorney's Office at St. Paul during the period that he was an assistant and that he recalled that whenever any of the defendants in the Bremer Kidnaping case or other major cases handled by United States Attorney's Office at that time, indicated that they desired to enter a plea of guilty, Mr. HEISEY stated that Mr. GEORGE SULLIVAN, United States Attorney at that time, (now deceased) would represent the government in court. Mr. HEISEY stated that he definitely recalls that with reference to VOLNEY DAVIS, Mr. SULLIVAN represented the government in court at DAVIS' arraignment and sentencing and that he (HEISEY) was occupied in his office in St. Paul preparing cases against the other defendants in the Bremer Kidnaping case. Mr. HEISEY stated further that he had no conversation or direct contact with DAVIS and that he knew no promises were made to DAVIS to enter a plea of guilty. Mr. HEISEY stated that he recalled that he had conversations with VOLNEY DAVIS' girlfriend, EDNA MURRAY, who became a witness for the government and that he made no promises to EDNA MURRAY that VOLNEY DAVIS would receive a light sentence if he entered a plea of guilty. Mr. HEISEY stated that no information ever came to him which would indicate any mistreatment of VOLNEY DAVIS.

MP #7-30

or any violation of DAVIS' constitutional rights by anyone or that DAVIS was held incommunicado and not permitted to see an attorney if he desired one.

NORTON RISEDORPH, Criminal Deputy Sheriff, Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, Ramsey County Court House, St. Paul, advised that according to his records, VOLNEY EVERETT DAVIS was received at the Ramsey County Jail on June 3, 1935, charge conspiracy to kidnap. Mr. RISEDORPH stated that his records reflected that the United States Marshal at St. Paul took custody of DAVIS on June 13, 1935, on which date DAVIS was taken to Leavenworth Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. RISEDORPH stated that he recalled a letter which VOLNEY DAVIS wrote to his mother and relatives from the Ramsey County Jail on June 3, 1935, and stated that inasmuch as he was chief jailer at Ramsey County Jail at the time, he took VOLNEY DAVIS' letter to Sheriff THOMAS GIBBONS who instructed his secretary, Mrs. VIRGINIA SCHWITZ, to make a censored copy of the same, which is still maintained in the files of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. RISEDORPH stated that he was unable to locate any visitors record sheet for VOLNEY DAVIS; however, recalled that DAVIS had the privilege of calling any attorney he desired and that it was his recollection that DAVIS never made any complaints that he had been denied his right to calling an attorney. Mr. RISEDORPH also stated that it was his recollection that DAVIS had never made any complaints concerning treatment which he had received at the hands of FBI agents or anyone else and recalled further that on the day DAVIS departed for Leavenworth Penitentiary, DAVIS shook hands with RISEDORPH and thanked him for the kind and courteous treatment which he had received at the Ramsey County Jail. Mr. RISEDORPH advised that although he had no written record of cell assignment for VOLNEY DAVIS, he recalled personally that VOLNEY DAVIS was incarcerated in Cell B on the second floor of the Ramsey County Jail and that Cell B has never been considered any form of solitary confinement and that he recalled that no extra guard was maintained for DAVIS.

In conclusion Mr. RISEDORPH stated that it was his recollection that DAVIS was a model prisoner who was always in good spirits and that for the above reasons he asked DAVIS if he would care to meet Mrs. VIRGINIA SCHWITZ, secretary to Sheriff GIBBONS.

Mr. RISEDORPH stated that he recalled introducing Mrs. SCHWITZ to VOLNEY DAVIS and that VOLNEY DAVIS made no complaints whatsoever to her and that their conversation was entirely pleasant.



MP #7-30

Mrs. VIRGINIA SCHWITZ, Secretary to Sheriff TOM GIBBONS, Ramsey County, St. Paul, stated that she recalled obtaining permission from chief jailer RISEDORPH to interview VOLNEY DAVIS in RISEDORPH'S presence and that although she is unable to recall any specific details concerning her conversation, she stated that DAVIS appeared in good spirits and made no complaints whatsoever concerning the treatment which he had received.

JOHN C. DE COURCY, attorney at law, St. Paul Building, St. Paul, furnished the following statement reaffirming his affidavit:

"Feb. 16, 1954

"I, John C. DeCourcy, give the following statement of my own free will to Special Agent Sigurd Flaata of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I was an attorney at law duly licensed to practice at the City of St. Paul, Minnesota in 1935 and have continued to be so engaged since said year, and have my office at 306 St. Paul Building, St. Paul. On April 12, 1940, I made an affidavit concerning matters with respect to Volney Davis which transpired on or about June 3, 1935 at St. Paul, Minnesota. A copy of this affidavit is before me at the present time and I have read it. That affidavit given by me was true when it was made and there is nothing further I can add to it. I reaffirm the affidavit.

"/s/ John C. DeCourcy

"Witness:

"/s/ Sigurd Flaata

"Sigurd Flaata, Special Agent, FBI

Mr. DE COURCY stated that he recalled that EDNA MURRAY, a girlfriend of VOLNEY DAVIS, came to his office concerning the title to a car and that although he was unable to recall many specific details concerning this transaction, Mr. DE COURCY stated that he believed EDNA MURRAY paid him \$300 and was to pay \$500 additional when his work was finished. Mr. DE COURCY stated that he believed EDNA MURRAY inquired concerning repossession of an automobile which VOLNEY DAVIS was believed to have title to at the time. Mr. DE COURCY stated that he recalled he had no difficulty making an appointment to confer with VOLNEY DAVIS at the Ramsey County Jail and that he interviewed DAVIS privately and that DAVIS made no request of him for legal assistance or indicated that any of his rights had been infringed upon in any way.

MP #7-30

Mr. WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, United States Commissioner, St. Paul, Minnesota, furnished the following statement reaffirming his affidavit:

"St. Paul, Minnesota  
February 17, 1954

"I, William H. Eckley, give the following statement of my own free will to Special Agent Sigurd Flaata of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have been a deputy clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota since September 15, 1931, and United States Commissioner for the District of Minnesota since October 26, 1949, and that I am so employed in both positions at the present time, and have been constantly from the aforementioned dates.

"That on or about April 9, 1940, I made an affidavit concerning matters with respect to Volney Davis which transpired on or about June 3, 1935, at St. Paul, Minnesota. A copy of this affidavit is before me at this time. I have read it. Said affidavit was in connection with a writ of habeas corpus which Volney Davis had filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

"Said affidavit given by me was true to the best of my knowledge and belief when made. My recollection at that time was much clearer than it now is. I therefore reaffirm said affidavit.

"/s/ William H. Eckley  
William H. Eckley

"WITNESS:

"/s/ Sigurd Flaata  
Sigurd Flaata, Special Agent, FBI

"

Mr. JAMES M. KLEES (formerly special agent) attorney in charge, St. Paul Branch, Securities and Exchange Commission, 400 Pioneer Building, St. Paul, furnished the following signed statement reaffirming his affidavit:

"St. Paul, Minnesota  
February 15, 1954

"I, James M. Klees, give the following statement of my own free will to Special Agent S. Flaata of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I was a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from March, 1934 until August 1936 and am now employed as an Attorney for the U. S. Securities & Exchange Commission.

"On April 12, 1940, I made an affidavit concerning matters with respect to Volney Davis which transpired on or about June 3, 1935 at St. Paul, Minnesota. A copy of this affidavit is before me at the present time. I have read it. This affidavit was in connection with a writ of habeas corpus which Volney Davis had filed in the United States District Court of the Northern District of California.

"That affidavit given by me was true when it was made. It is true now. There is nothing further I can add to it. I reaffirm the affidavit.

"/s/ James M. Klees  
James M. Klees

"Witness;

"/s/ Sigurd Flaata  
Sigurd Flaata, Special Agent, FBI

"

Mr. KLEES stated that due to the notorious character of the defendants in this case and also due to the widespread newspaper publicity given to the trial, he has had frequent occasion to refresh his memory of the events which transpired in the case through discussion of various incidents with his friends and acquaintances. Mr. KLEES stated that he recalled that DAVIS requested the indictment be read at the arraignment on June 3, 1935 and that he also recalls that Judge JOYCE inquired of DAVIS whether he desired an attorney and that DAVIS answered Judge JOYCE in obscene, blasphemous, flippant manner, in effect "I don't want any \_\_\_\_\_ shyster representing me."

JOSEPH T. LYNCH, former deputy clerk of court, furnished the following statement reaffirming his affidavit:

"St. Paul, Minnesota  
Feb. 16, 1954

"I, Joseph T. Lynch, give the following statement of my own free will to Special Agent Sigurd Flaata of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I reside at 1610 Beach Street, St. Paul, Minn. and I am presently employed as bartender at 1784 East Minnehaha Avenue, St. Paul, Minn. I was on the third day of June, 1935, and for more than a year prior thereto and for about a year subsequent to said date, an acting Deputy Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota attached to that office at St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Third Division of said District.

"On April 9, 1940, I made an affidavit concerning matters with respect to Volney Davis, which transpired on or about June 3, 1935 at St. Paul, Minn. A copy of this affidavit is before me at the present time and I have read it. This affidavit was in connection with a writ of habeas corpus which Volney Davis had filed in the United States District Court of the Northern District of California. That affidavit given by me was true when it was made and there is nothing further I can add to it. I reaffirm the affidavit.

"/s/ Joseph T. Lynch

"Witness: /s/ Sigurd Flaata, Special Agent, F.B.I.                   "

Mr. JACK B. MACKAY, Associated Press, 403 Dispatch Building, St. Paul, furnished the following statement reaffirming his affidavit:

"I, Jack B. Mackay, give the following statement of my own free will to Special Agent Sigurd Flaata of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"On the third day of June, 1935, and ever since that time I have been employed by The Associated Press with offices at St. Paul, Minn., and among other duties it has been my duty to gather and report news for The Associated Press. On the third day of June, 1935, I wrote a story which set forth in substance an interview which was correctly published in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on June 4, 1935, under the caption of "Can't Beat These G-Guys," Davis says, "Had It On Me." I furnished an affidavit

MP #7-30

"concerning this matter on April 12, 1940, a copy of which I have read, and I have also read a copy of the above mentioned story which I wrote on June 4, 1935. That affidavit given by me was true when it was made and there is nothing further that I can add to it. I reaffirm the affidavit.

"s/ Jack B. Mackay

"Witness:

"s/ Sigurd Flaata  
"Feb. 18, 1954.

Mr. MACKAY stated that he recalled that when he interviewed VOLNEY DAVIS, DAVIS did not appear in any manner to have been mistreated and appeared to be in good humor and made no complaint to Mr. MACKAY whatsoever concerning his treatment. Mr. MACKAY stated that he recalled that he interviewed VOLNEY DAVIS privately and that DAVIS made no request of him to obtain the assistance of counsel or any other assistance.

Mr. MACKAY advised that ROBERT THOMPSON, former reporter for the St. Paul "Dispatch Pioneer Press" was presently in Washington, D.C., and could be located through the offices of the St. Paul Dispatch, 808 Albee Building, Washington, D.C.

By letter dated February 19, 1954, the Washington Field Office was requested to locate and interview ROBERT THOMPSON and also refresh THOMPSON'S memory with a clipping of a story "Volney Davis Brought Here By Plane, Pleads Guilty to Bremer Conspiracy" published in the St. Paul "Dispatch" June 3, 1954, which was mentioned in the affidavit submitted by ROBERT THOMPSON in 1940.

At Alexandria, Minnesota

EDWARD R. PICHA, residence 1419 Broadway, Alexandria, furnished the following statement reaffirming the affidavit which he submitted in 1940:

"Alexandria, Minn.  
Feb. 17, 1954

"I, Edward R. Picha, give the following statement of my own free will to Special Agent Sigurd Flaata of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On the third of June, 1935, and for several

"years prior thereto and for several years after said date, I was the court bailiff for Honorable Matthew M. Joyce, Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. I presently reside at Alexandria, Minnesota where I am engaged in the wholesale beer business. On April 9, 1940, I made an affidavit with respect to Volney Davis and which concerned matters which transpired on or about June 3, 1935 at St. Paul, Minnesota. A copy of this affidavit is before me at the present time and I have read it. This affidavit given by me was true when it was made and there is nothing further I can add to it. I reaffirm the affidavit.

"/s/ Edward R. Picha

"Witness: /s/ Sigurd Flaata, Special Agent, F.B.I. "

Mr. PICHA stated that he recalled the VOLNEY DAVIS case very clearly inasmuch as he was formerly the court bailiff and also for the reason that he was hired by the United States Marshal's Office to assist in the transportation of Davis and other prisoners from St. Paul to Leavenworth Penitentiary. Mr. PICHA stated that he recalled that he was handcuffed to DAVIS and that he was also mannaled to DAVIS with a leg iron. PICHA stated that he sat with DAVIS during the entire trip on the train to Leavenworth and that they departed from St. Paul at approximately 3:00 p.m. on June 13, 1935, arriving at Leavenworth at approximately 9:00 a.m. on June 14, 1935. PICHA stated that at no time during the trip did DAVIS complain to him or any mistreatment whatsoever at the hands of FBI agents or anyone else, nor that he had been denied his right to an attorney.

PICHA stated that he recalled that as the train was passing over a bridge enroute to Leavenworth, DAVIS told him that he would have taken "a dive" through the train window into the river in an attempt to escape if he was not mannaled. PICHA stated that he also recalled that upon arrival at Leavenworth Penitentiary, DAVIS threatened "I'll get you for this" after PICHA pointed DAVIS out to prison officials at Leavenworth as having something in his hands, which, upon search, turned out to be a piece of watch spring. PICHA stated further that prison officials immediately took DAVIS into a room where he was stripped and a thorough search of DAVIS' clothing revealed four or five more pieces of watch spring which PICHA stated DAVIS might use to pick locks or handcuffs.

At St. Paul, Minnesota

RONALD HAZEL, partner, law firm, Bundlie, Kelly, Finley and Maun, Hamm Building, St. Paul, stated that he recalled that he was a law clerk for the Honorable JOHN B. SANBORN, United States District Court Judge, St. Paul, during the trial of the defendants in the Bremer Kidnaping case during 1935. Mr. HAZEL advised that he was present at the arraignment of VOLNEY DAVIS on June 3, 1935 and recalled that DAVIS asked that the indictment be read to him. Mr. HAZEL stated he clearly recalled this for the reason that the indictment was exceedingly lengthy and stated that he also recalled that Judge MATTHEW M. JOYCE, who presided, questioned DAVIS whether he wanted an attorney and that DAVIS stated that he did not want a lawyer.

EARL MORRISON, Chief Deputy Marshal, United States Marshal's Office, Federal Courts Building, St. Paul, stated that he was hired as a guard by the Marshal's Office to assist in the transportation of prisoners to Leavenworth in 1935. Mr. MORRISON stated that he was unable to recall any conversation with DAVIS enroute and that JOHN FARRELL, United States Marshal, who was in charge of the office is presently deceased. Mr. MORRISON stated no record are available relative to the deputies assignments prior to 1940 inasmuch as the same have been destroyed. In this regard, Mr. MORRISON stated that he had no recollection concerning the names of any deputies who may have transported VOLNEY DAVIS from the Ramsey County Jail to the Federal Courts Building on the date DAVIS was sentenced, on June 7, 1935.

EDWARD GEORGE BREMER (victim in instant case) President, Commercial State Bank, St. Paul, upon interview stated that he was unable to recall whether he was in attendance at the arraignment or sentencing of VOLNEY DAVIS in 1935. Mr. BREMER stated that the only incident pertinent to DAVIS that he could recall was that former SAC HAROLD ANDERSEN requested him to come to the offices of the FBI in the Federal Courts Building to personally observe DAVIS. However, Mr. BREMER stated that he was unable to recall any conversation with DAVIS.

LOUIS GOLLOP, reporter, St. Paul "Dispatch Pioneer Press", St. Paul, Minnesota, advised that he wrote the article "Gangman In On Story Explains Plea" by VOLNEY DAVIS (As Told to A Daily News Reporter)" which appeared in the St. Paul "Daily News" June 3, 1935. This article stated VOLNEY DAVIS considered giving himself up six months before he was apprehended. Mr. GOLLOP stated that this article makes reference to an interview which he had with EDNA MURRAY and that the above entitled

MP #7-30

story, according to GOLLOP, was a follow-up of his interview with EDNA MURRAY. Mr. GOLLOP stated that the "Daily News" went out of business and that there are no records available which would reflect reporters' assignments or otherwise further identify "Daily News" articles which were written relative to the Bremer Kidnaping in 1935.

The following identification record was received from the Bureau for VOLNEY DAVIS, FBI Number 400-441:

Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
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b3

[REDACTED]

\*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



MP #7-30

<u>Contributor of Fingerprints</u>	<u>Name and Number</u>	<u>Arrested or Received</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
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b3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

\*

[REDACTED]

MP #7-30

Contributor  
of  
Fingerprints

Name  
and  
Number

Arrested  
or  
Received

Charge

Disposition

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MP #7-30

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Contributor of Fingerprints	Name and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By teletype dated February 12, 1954, the Bureau advised that A.H. JOHNSON, former agent who was assigned to the Chicago Office in 1935, could be located care of Investigators, Incorporated, Suite 405, 1209 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

By airtel dated February 16, 1954, the Chicago Office was requested to locate and interview former agent A. H. JOHNSON and obtain a signed statement.

- P -

- 14 -

MP #7-30

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

CHICAGO DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois

Will locate and interview Mr. A. H. JOHNSON (former agent) care of Investigators, Incorporated, 1209 South LaSalle Street, along the same lines as set out in the leads for the Miami Office in referenced report, and obtain a signed statement from Mr. JOHNSON. It is noted in the report of SA R. C. SERAN that A. H. JOHNSON participated in the search of VOLNEY DAVIS after his apprehension on June 1, 1935. (Instant lead was set out for the Chicago Division by Minneapolis airtel to Chicago February 16, 1954.)

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

At Washington, D.C.

Will locate, interview and obtain a signed statement from ROBERT THOMPSON reaffirming affidavit which he furnished in 1940. (It should be noted this lead was set out in referenced air mail letter from Minneapolis to Washington Field dated February 19, 1954, which enclosed a newspaper clipping published in the St. Paul "Dispatch" June 3, 1935, under the heading "Volney Davis Brought Here By Plane, Pleads Guilty to Bremer Conspiracy".)

MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION

At Minneapolis, Minnesota

Will advise the Bureau by daily summary of pertinent developments and the court action in this case as instructed by the Bureau in referenced airtel dated February 18, 1954.

REFERENCE

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated 2/12/54 at Minneapolis.  
Minneapolis teletype to Director dated 2/18/54.  
Minneapolis letter to Washington Field dated 2/19/54.  
Bureau airtel dated 2/18/54.  
Minneapolis teletype to Director dated 2/23/54.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT <b>CHICAGO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/25/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/19, 22-24/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROSWELL T. SPENCER RTS:njb</b>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was; et al EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Former agent A. H. JOHNSON unable to recall VOLNEY DAVIS being in the Chicago Office or participating in the search of an individual under the circumstances set out concerning the search of DAVIS in the Chicago Office June 1, 1935. A review of the Chicago files fails to locate any logs or records which set forth the date and time DAVIS was received at the Chicago Office or data concerning departure from Chicago to St. Paul other than investigative reports. Chicago files contain: 1) original notes of former FBI stenographer LENORA MARSCH taken at the time the signed statement of DAVIS was dictated. Original statement was dictated at 11:10 PM, June 1, 1935, but contained nothing in addition to contents of statement; 2) an original waiver of removal signed by DAVIS June 1, 1935 witnessed by SAs MELVIN H. PURVIS and R. C. SURAN; 3) original (believed to be in DAVIS' handwriting) manuscript entitled "My Career in Crime" dated August 9, 1935 signed VOLNEY DAVIS. Review of Chicago files reflects DAVIS interviewed subsequent to sentence on June 29, August 9, and August 23, 1935 during which he made no allegations of mistreatment at time of arrest.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-RUC-</p> <p><u>DETAILS:</u> <span style="float: right;"><u>AT CHICAGO:</u></span></p> <p>Interview of Former SA A. H. JOHNSON Mr. A. H. JOHNSON, Investigators Incorporated,</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <b>7-576-15352</b> RECORDED-34 FEB 26 1954 <i>[Handwritten notes and signatures]</i>	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 - Bureau (7-576) (AM)</li> <li>3 - Minneapolis (7-30) (1 USA St. Paul) (AM)</li> <li>2 - Cincinnati (7-43)</li> <li>2 - Chicago (7-82)</li> </ul>			

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50255-2

Rookery Building, Suite 405, 209 South La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois was interviewed by SAs RAYMOND DRISCOLL and CLIFFORD A. GRILL on February 23, 1954. Mr. JOHNSON advised that as of June 1, 1935 he was employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and assigned to the Chicago Office. He stated that he could not recall VOLNEY DAVIS having been at the Chicago Office and could not recall participating in the search of VOLNEY DAVIS or any other individual under the circumstances set out concerning the search of DAVIS in the Chicago Office on June 1, 1935. Mr. JOHNSON expressed his desire to cooperate with the FBI in any way and stated that if in the future he could recall the incident of the search of VOLNEY DAVIS, he would immediately contact the Chicago Office.

Original Documents of Chicago  
FBI Files Concerning VOLNEY DAVIS:

The files of the Chicago Office concerning instant case were reviewed by SAs CLIFFORD GRILL, JOSEPH A. LEHMAN, ROBERT J. DENEEN, RAYMOND J. DRISCOLL, EDWARD KINZER, JR., JOSEPH WHEELER and the reporting agent. The files of the Chicago Office contain the following:

1. A note book containing the original stenographic notes of former FBI stenographer LENORA MARSCH taken at the time the signed statement of VOLNEY DAVIS was dictated in the Chicago Office on June 1, 1935. The stenographic notes were reviewed by Assistant Chief Clerk MARY GRAY. Miss GRAY stated that according to the stenographic notes of LENORA MARSCH the statement was dictated at 11:10 PM on June 1, 1935. Miss GRAY stated that the stenographic notes contained nothing further in addition to the contents of the signed statement executed by VOLNEY DAVIS on June 1, 1935.

which statement, according to the stenographic notes, was witnessed by R. C. SURAN, Special Agent and M. CHAFFETZ, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Chicago, Illinois. In addition, Miss GRAY advised that LENORA MARSCH is well known to her and she believed that LENORA MARSCH is still located in Chicago, Illinois.

2. An original waiver of removal dated at Chicago, Illinois June 1, 1935 signed by VOLNEY DAVIS, witnessed by MELVIN H. PURVIS, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Chicago, Illinois and R. C. SURAN, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Chicago, Illinois.

3. An original manuscript (believed to be in the handwriting of VOLNEY DAVIS) entitled "My Career in Crime" dated August 9, 1935, signed VOLNEY DAVIS.

This manuscript was furnished to SA A. E. FARLAND of the Kansas City Office of the FBI by VOLNEY DAVIS at which time SA A. E. FARLAND stated that this document was written in longhand by VOLNEY DAVIS and was given to him with the reservation that the same should be kept strictly confidential.

A review of the Chicago files failed to locate any logs or records which set forth the time and date DAVIS was.

received at the Chicago Office or data concerning arrangements made for food and refreshments to be served to DAVIS and no data as to the time and date DAVIS departed from Chicago to St. Paul other than that set out in investigative reports.

Interviews With DAVIS  
Subsequent to Time of  
Sentence

On June 28, 1935 VOLNEY DAVIS was interviewed by SAs A. E. FARLAND and E. L. COCHRAN at the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas. At the time of the interview DAVIS stated that his parents, particularly his mother and father, had come to the prison for the purpose of visiting him and the visit was not allowed; that he had been visited by an attorney, Mr. LEE BOND of Leavenworth, Kansas, who had called on him at the request of his mother and father for the purpose of getting certain property which had been taken from him, particularly his money; that he wanted his parents to get what money he had which had been taken from him. He was advised that his automobile had been confiscated by the Government, however, agents were unable to give any information as to what disposition would be made of the cash which had been taken from him.

DAVIS further stated that he had entered a plea of guilty believing he would be shown some consideration by entering a plea but that he had been given life imprisonment and had been sent to the penitentiary and had been in solitary confinement since his arrival there. He did not believe, in view of this fact, it would do him any good to furnish the Government any information, however, he stated he was in a position to furnish some information if he thought it would do him any good. He mentioned the fact that if it were not for his father and mother, he would do away with himself. Several hours were spent with DAVIS but he would furnish no information other than what had already been given and is contained in reports of this case.

On July 15, 1935 VOLNEY DAVIS was contacted by SAs A. E. FARLAND and A. S. REEDER at which time he executed a



sworn statement indicating that he desired his property, including cash in the sum of \$1,143.43, be turned over to his mother, Mrs. RODNEY E. DAVIS, Box #2, Neo Sho, Missouri. A copy of this sworn statement, signed by VOLNEY DAVIS in the presence of a notary public, E. W. ECKBOLDT at Leavenworth, Kansas, is presently in the files of the Chicago Office.

On August 23, 1935 VOLNEY DAVIS was interviewed by SAs A. E. FARLAND and A. J. NORSTROM at the Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas after word had been received from Mrs. L. B. HOFFMAN, Mrs. BERTHA WILLIAMS, and Mrs. RUBY LAMBERSON, sisters of VOLNEY DAVIS, that VOLNEY DAVIS desired SAs FARLAND and NORSTROM to call on him at the penitentiary. At the time of this interview, DAVIS was advised that no promises of leniency could be made to him but that any information he could furnish would be treated with strictest confidence. DAVIS advised he expected no favors to be shown him but in view of the assistance the Bureau had rendered to his family in releasing his personal effects to them, he wanted to disclose information that would be of possible value. DAVIS then proceeded to furnish additional information to that which he had previously furnished.

The files of the Chicago Office contain a receipt signed by Mrs. RODNEY DAVIS dated November 21, 1935 at Neo Sho, Missouri. This receipt is for the property of VOLNEY DAVIS, including cash in the sum of \$1,143.40. This statement was witnessed by Mrs. RUBY LAMBERSON, RFD #2, Neo Sho, Missouri, by A. J. NORSTROM, Federal Bureau of Investigation, A. E. FARLAND, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Kansas City, Missouri. This receipt is presently in the files of the Chicago Office.

It is to be noted that a review of the files reflected that during the interviews of DAVIS on June 29, August 9, and August 23, 1935 by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, DAVIS had at no time made allegations of mistreatment at the time of arrest and no allegations as to promises made to him by agents prior to sentence.

-RUC-

## ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE

As to the interview with former SA A. H. JOHNSON, every effort was made to refresh Mr. JOHNSON's memory as to the search of VOLNEY DAVIS in the Chicago Office on June 1, 1935.

On February 23, 1954 a teletype was sent to the San Francisco Office requesting a synopsis of the interview with former SA CASSIDY so that it could be used in an effort to refresh the memory of former SA A. H. JOHNSON. The San Francisco Office, in teletype dated February 23, 1954, advised that SA CASSIDY recalled that VOLNEY DAVIS had been brought to the Chicago Office and searched by he and A. H. JOHNSON; that DAVIS was furnished with clean coveralls, slippers and placed in a detention cell. CASSIDY advised that he did not engage in any discussion with DAVIS and did not hear JOHNSON do so.

Former SA A. H. JOHNSON was again contacted and again advised that he would do anything in his power to cooperate with and assist the FBI, however, he still could not recall the incident. In the event anything is developed from other interviews concerning the details of this search which might assist in refreshing Mr. JOHNSON's memory, it is suggested such data be furnished to the Chicago Office.

Concerning the original stenographic notes of former stenographer LENORA MARSCH as was pointed out in the details of this report, LENORA MARSCH is thought to be still located in Chicago, however, she will not be interviewed concerning this incident until instructions are received from St. Paul. This exhibit is located in Chicago file K-7-82-3673. This exhibit also contains waiver of removal signed by VOLNEY DAVIS June 1, 1935.

Attention is directed to the portion of instant report entitled "Interviews with DAVIS Subsequent to Time of

Sentence." This information was compiled from the following serials in this file:

Report of SA A. J. NORSTROM dated July 5, 1935 at Kansas City, Missouri starting page 9, (Chicago file #K-7-82-3932, page 9)

Letter to Mr. E. J. CONNELLEY, Chicago, Illinois from Special Agent in Charge, Kansas City (Chicago file #7-82-5096)

Copy of sworn statement of VOLNEY DAVIS regarding disposition of personal property (Chicago file #7-82-5095)

Report of SA A. J. NORSTROM dated August 24, 1935 at Kansas City, a copy of which was furnished to the St. Paul Office, starting page two (Chicago file 7-82-4315)

Receipt signed by Mrs. RODNEY DAVIS dated November 21, 1935 for property and money of VOLNEY DAVIS returned to her. Appears as exhibit. (Chicago file #7-82-5390).

As to original manuscript and statement of VOLNEY DAVIS entitled "My Career in Crime" dated August 9, 1935, the contents of this statement were set out in detail in the report of SA A. E. FARLAND, Kansas City, Missouri dated September 5, 1935, two copies of which were furnished to the St. Paul Office. (Chicago file #7-82-4433) The original of this document is contained in Chicago file 7-82-4432. It is pointed out that this information was originally furnished by VOLNEY DAVIS to be treated in strictest confidence. Whether or not the contents of this information is furnished to the United States Attorney at St. Paul is being left to the discretion of the St. Paul Office.

REFERENCE

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, dated 2/12/54 at Minneapolis.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 2/25/54

FROM : SAC, WFO (7-03)

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased);  
 ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (deceased);  
 VOLNEY DAVIS et al;  
 EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING

Reference is made to the enclosed report of SA THOMAS J. JENKINS dated February 25, 1954, at Washington, D.C., and to the letter from Minneapolis dated February 19, 1954. The report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated February 12, 1954, at Minneapolis, was not received as an enclosure from Minneapolis in referenced report & LETTER

A photostatic copy of ROBERT THOMPSON's affidavit was obtained from the Bureau's files and was used in connection with the interview of THOMPSON. In connection with the leads set forth for the Minneapolis Office on Page 84 of referenced report, requesting that the newspaper morgue of the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press be reviewed, during the course of the interview with ROBERT THOMPSON, he was questioned as to the individuals present in the courtroom at the time the events occurred on June 3, 1935. He stated that he believed LOUIS GALLOP and NORMAN HEMLE, formerly with the St. Paul Daily News, were in the courtroom at the time. He thinks also there was a third reporter present either from one of the wire services or one of the Minneapolis papers.

He stated that he also believed that the then Chief Deputy Marshal, STEVE PICHA and his son EDWIN who was a bailiff for Judge JOYCE, were also in the courtroom. He stated that he could furnish the identity of no other individuals who were present.

This information was not set forth in the investigative report because the extent of the Minneapolis investigation is not known to WFO and it is not known whether HEMLE and GALLOP have been contacted or the former Chief Deputy Marshal, PICHA and his son, and interviews with these individuals are being left to the Minneapolis Office.

EXP. PROC.

TJJ:BT

2 - Minneapolis (7-30) (Encl.-4) (AMSD) (AMRRR)

3/2/54 RECORDED-34

1 cc To Dept.

MTC/dmc

FEB 26 1954

3-4

Cunningham

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT MINNEAPOLIS

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D.C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/25/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/24, 25/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>THOMAS J. JENKINS</b> <span style="float: right;">BT</span>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS et al; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>ROBERT THOMPSON, formerly of St. Paul Dispatch Newspaper, furnished signed statement that his present recollections of events on June 3, 1935, are the same as appearing in his affidavit dated 4/18/40.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p><b>DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.</b></p> <p>ROBERT THOMPSON, 6201 Melville Place, Chevy Chase 15, Maryland, advised that he was a Reporter for the St. Paul Dispatch on June 3, 1935. He stated that at the present time, he is not employed but doing free-lance work. A photostatic copy of the affidavit given by Mr. THOMPSON on April 18, 1940, was exhibited to him, at which time he advised that his present recollection concerning the events on June 3, 1935, is the same as set forth in the instant affidavit.</p> <p>Mr. THOMPSON furnished the following signed statement:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">"Washington, D.C. "Feb. 25, 1954</p> <p>"I ROBERT THOMPSON make the following voluntary statement to THOMAS J. JENKINS Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to make this statement. I know I do not have to make any statement and any statement I make can be used in any court of law.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		ENCLOSURE	
② - Bureau 3 - Minneapolis (7-30) (Encl.-1) (A:SD) (RM:RR) FEB 26 1954 (1-USA, St. Paul) 1 - Washington Field (7-63)		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		12-576-15353 3-4 <i>[Signature]</i>	
		RECORDED-34	

EXP-3-PROE

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50845-2

WFO 7-03

"I reside at 6201 Melville Place Chevy Chase 15 Maryland. I have reviewed the affidavit given by me on April 18 1940 in the case of VOLNEY DAVIS Petitioner VS. JAMES A. JOHNSTON Warden United States Penitentiary, Alcatraz, California, Respondent. The facts set forth in that affidavit are the same as I recall them today. There is no change in my recollection from the facts set forth in the affidavit.

"I have read the above statement of one page and it is true to the best of my recollection and belief.

"/s/ ROBERT THOMPSON

"Witness: THOMAS J. JENKINS, Special Agent FBI 2/25/54 "

ENCLOSURE TO MINNEAPOLIS:

1 newspaper clipping which bears the headline:  
"VIS, Brought H Guilty To Brem," dated June 3,  
1953.

- RUC -

WFO 7-63

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Letter from Minneapolis dated February 19, 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2-26-54

DIRECTOR, FBI

URGENT

G.I.R.-2

D1-05 PMP

BREKID. RE BUREAU AIRTEL FEBRUARY TWENTY-FOUR, LAST. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, LOS ANGELES ADVISES BY TELETYPE 2-1 FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIVE AS FOLLOWS, QUOTE REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED FEB TWELVE LAST LISTING LEAD TO INTERVIEW FORMER SAC HAROLD E. ANDERSEN AT NEW YORK. ANDERSEN NOW RESIDES FIVE FOUR SIX TEDEMORY DRIVE, WHITTIER, CALIF., IS EMPLOYED BY NATIONAL BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS. SIGNED STATEMENT OBTAINED FROM ANDERSEN TODAY. ORIGINAL BEING FORWARDED VIA AMSD. STATES WHEN DAVIS WAS BROUGHT TO FBI OFFICE, ST. PAUL, HE WAS HAND-CUFFED AND HAD LEG IRONS TO WHICH TRAVELLING CHAIN WAS ATTACHED. AS OFFICE HAD NO DETENTION FACILITIES AND DAVIS HAD PREVIOUSLY EFFECTED ESCAPE FROM AGENT GUARD, ANDERSEN DECIDED FOR REASONS OF SAFETY TO HAVE TRAVELLING CHAIN FROM LEG IRONS ATTACHED TO A RADIATOR. WHEN THIS WAS DONE, HANDCUFFS WERE REMOVED. DAVIS SAT IN CHAIR PERHAPS THREE OR FOUR FEET FROM RADIATOR. DENIED THAT DAVIS ASKED TO TALK WITH ANYONE OR TO SEE AN ATTORNEY OR THAT ANYONE IN HIS PRESENCE TOLD DAVIS THAT FBI AGENTS WERE

END PAGE ONE

59 MAR 9 1954

RECORDED-12

MAR 2 1954

Mr. Rosen



~~ATTORNEYS~~ <sup>LAWYERS</sup> AND WOULD CARE FOR HIM. DENIED THAT ANY PROMISES OF ANY KIND WERE MADE TO DAVIS RE PLEA OF GUILTY. STATED DAVIS APPEARED NORMAL BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY AND WELL KNEW FACTS AND PROBABLE SENTENCE WHEN ENTERED PLEA. ALTHOUGH ANDERSEN IS NOT ANXIOUS TO APPEAR AT HEARING, HE DESIRES TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. WOULD MAKE TRIP TO MPLS IF SUBPOENAED. MALONNE UNQUOTE. ALSO FOR THE INFORMATION OF BUREAU, VOLNEY DAVIS HEARING SET FOR ONE P.M. TODAY BEFORE JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE AT ST. PAUL, AT WHICH TIME DAVIS DESIRES FOR ATTORNEY WILL BE ASCERTAINED BY THE COURT AND A DATE WILL BE SET FOR HEARING. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED FULLY OF RESULTS OF HEARING AND OF WISHES OF USA-

S OFFICE, ST. PAUL, AS TO SUBPOENA OF WITNESS FOR HEARING. REPORT OF SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIVE AT MINNEAPOLIS BEING FURNISHED AMSD.

HOWARD

END AND ACK

2-14 PM OK FBI WA EAB

M

cc: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

AIR-TEL  
Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to: DIRECTOR, FBI

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS  
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

3/1/54

AIR MAIL

*6 Cummings*

BREKID. RE BUREAU FILE 7-576. REMYTEL TODAY. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, MINN., ADVISED THAT AT CONFERENCE TODAY WITH HARLAN STRONG, COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS, THAT STRONG DOES NOT DESIRE TO SET DATE FOR HEARING UNTIL END OF WEEK. DIM STATED HE DESIRES TO GIVE STRONG ALL THE TIME NECESSARY AND WOULD RECONTACT STRONG MARCH 5, 1954, RELATIVE TO SETTING DATE FOR HEARING. DIM STATED ACCORDINGLY THE ISSUANCE OF ANY SUBPOENAS WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL DATE FOR HEARING IS AGREED UPON. FOR THE INFORMATION OF BUREAU, WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, DEPUTY CLERK OF U. S. DISTRICT COURT AND U. S. COMMISSIONER, ST. PAUL, MINN., ADVISED TODAY HE HAD LOCATED HANDWRITTEN PENCILED NOTES IN HIS FILES REFLECTING ARRAIGNMENT OF DAVIS AS FOLLOWS: "NUMBER 6096, CRIMINAL, JUNE 3, 1935, (JOYCE - J.) GEO F. SULLIVAN; VOLNEY DAVIS IS ARRAIGNED AND ON BEING QUESTIONED BY THE COURT, STATED THAT HE DID NOT DESIRE THE ADVICE OF COUNSEL AND ENTERED A PLEA OF GUILTY. SENTENCE DEFERRED TO JUNE 7, 1935." JOSEPH T. LYNCH, ST. PAUL FORMER DEPUTY CLERK,

7-30

SF/mt

RECORDED-49

17-216-15355  
Mr. Rosen

MAR 3 1954

53 MAR 9 1954  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-----

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

RECONTACTED AND IDENTIFIED PHOTOSTATIC COPY OF NOTES AS HIS  
HANDWRITING. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THIS EVIDENCE CORROBORATES DATA  
SET FORTH IN OFFICIAL TERM MINUTES OF THE COURT AND STATEMENTS  
OF WITNESSES. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

MARCH 1, 1954

AIRTEL

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (7-33) (AIRMAIL)

ALVIN KARPIS, WA., ET AL, KIDNAPPING. BREKID - RE YOUR LTR  
2/23/54. A REPORT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN THIS CASE BY  
RETURN MAIL CONTAINING THE STATEMENT OF SA MICHAEL J.  
CASSIDY. THE REPORT SHOULD BE SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION  
TO THE DEPARTMENT.

HOOVER

RECORDED - 36

7-576-15356

7-576

EX - 107

MAR 2 1954

MTC:dmc

130

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Laughlin  
Mohr  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman

MAR 1 2 50 PM '54

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

COMM - FBI

B I

MAR 1 - 1954

MAILED 27

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 1 - 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

3-1-54

4-05 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

BREKID, BUFILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. RE MP TELS  
FEBRUARY TWENTY SEVEN LAST. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL,  
MINN., ADVISED USDC JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE NAMED HARLAN  
STRONG, MINNEAPOLIS LAWYER, TO REPRESENT VOLNEY DAVIS.  
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE INDICES NEGATIVE ON STRONG. DIM

ADVISED HE MAY BE READY TO ISSUE SUBPOENAS FOR WITNESSES  
MARCH SECOND NEXT WHEN DEFINITE DATE FOR HEARING EXPECTED  
TO BE SET BY COURT. DIM REQUESTED SPECIAL AGENTS, MENTIONED  
IN REPORT SA ROSWELL T. SPENCER DATED FEBRUARY TWENTY FIVE  
LAST AT CHICAGO, WHO CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS WITH VOLNEY DAVIS  
SUBSEQUENT TO TIME OF SENTENCE AT LEAVENWORTH PENITENTIARY  
BE LOCATED AND QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER DAVIS MADE ANY  
ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST OR ALLEGATIONS  
AS TO PROMISES BY AGENTS PRIOR TO SENTENCING. REREP REFLECTS  
DAVIS INTERVIEWED JUNE TWENTY EIGHT, NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE,  
BY SA-S A. E. FARLNAD AND E. L. COCHRON., ON JULY FIFTEEN,  
THIRTY FIVE BY SA-S FARLAND AND A. S. REEDER., AND ON

END PAGE ONE

MAR 9 1954

RECORDED - 15

EX-126

MAR 8 1954

Mr. Rosen

PAGE TWO

AUGUST TWENTY THREE, THIRTY FIVE BY SA-S FARLAND AND A. J. NORSTROM. DENVER IS BEING FURNISHED A COPY OF THE REPORT OF SA ROSWELL T. SPENCER DATED FEBRUARY TWENTY FIVE LAST AT CHICAGO AND A COPY OF THE REPORT OF SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED FEBRUARY TWELVE LAST AT MINNEAPOLIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING SA A. S. REEDER SET FORTH SUMMARY OF RECOLLECTION OF ABOVE INTERVIEW. FOR INFORMATION DENVER MINNEAPOLIS OO. BUREAU REQUESTED TO FURNISH MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION AVAILABLE ADDRESSES SA-S A. E. FARLAND AND E. L. COCHRON AND ALSO HAVE SUPERVISOR A. J. NORSTROM AT THE BUREAU FURNISH THE MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE SUMMARY OF HIS RECOLLECTION OF THE ABOVE INTERVIEW WITH DAVIS ALONG THE LINES REQUESTED BY MR. DIM. THE BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

CORRECTIONS LNE 3 WRD 2-3 ARE ADVU ADVISED USDC  
END AND ACK PLS

5-13 OK FBI WA IS

CORR FOR PAGE ONE

TU DISC

M

cc: Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 4 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI, LOS ANGELES 3-3-54 10-23 PM PST L.D.  
DIRECTOR AND SAC, MINNEAPOLIS . . . U R G E N T . . .

BREKID. REBUTEL MARCH TWO LAST REQUESTING LA INTERVIEW FORMER SA  
EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN, SIX TWO FOUR TWENTYTHIRD ST., SANTA MONICA,  
CALIF., RE INTERVIEW WITH VOLNEY DAVIS AT U.S. PENITENTIARY,  
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, ON JUNE TWENTYEIGHT, NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE.  
SIGNED STATEMENT OBTAINED TODAY FROM COCHRAN. HE DOES NOT RECALL  
INTERVIEW WITH DAVIS ON THAT OR ANY OTHER OCCASION. HE HAS NO  
RECOLLECTION THAT DAVIS ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OR PROMISES BY  
FBI AGENTS AT ANY TIME. SIGNED STATEMENT BEING FORWARDED MINNEAPOLIS  
VIA AMSD. REPORT FOLLOWS. *ev*

MALONE

END AND ACK IN ORDER PLS

WA 125 AM OK FBI WA ELR  
MP OK FBI MP DA

17-576-15358  
MAR 4 1954

MAR 15 1954

Mr. Rosen

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1954

TELETYPE

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

2-26-54

5-52 PM

AW

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

BREKID. RE BUREAU FILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. REMYTEL

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

TODAY AND RE BUREAU AIRTEL FEBRUARY NINE, LAST. FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, VOLNEY DAVIS APPEARED BEFORE HONORABLE GUNNAR H. NORDBYE, U. S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, ST. PAUL, IN HEARING AT ONE P. M. THIS DATE, AT WHICH TIME ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, REQUESTED THAT THE COURT QUESTION DAVIS CONCERNING HIS WISHES FOR AN ATTORNEY. IN ANSWER TO JUDGE NORDBYE-S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER DAVIS HAD FUNDS TO HIRE AN ATTORNEY, DAVIS STATED THAT HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, WISHED THE COURT TO APPOINT AN ATTORNEY WHOM DAVIS DESIRED TO CHOOSE. THE COURT ASKED DAVIS IF HE HAD ANY STATEMENT TO MAKE IN THIS REGARD AND DAVIS REPLIED THAT HE HAD READ SOME LAW THAT HE HAD A RIGHT TO CHOOSE AN ATTORNEY, AND THAT HE HAD A LIST OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE INDIVIDUALS WHOM HE WISHED THE COURT TO CONSIDER AS AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT HIM.. ONE, HARLAN STRONG, FORMER PRESIDENT, HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, MINNEAPOLIS.. TWO, SIDNEY GOFF, PROMINENT ST. PAUL ATTORNEY, WHO RECENTLY SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED MRS.

388 PAGE ONE

RECORDED-12

Mr. Rosen

MAR 2 1954

MAR 10 1954

3-1-54  
Haward instructed  
to hold by discussion  
with USA pending further  
advice of the  
office



PAGE TWO

LILLIAN CARLSON IN AN EMBEZZLEMENT CASE WHICH WAS THE LONGEST CRIMINAL CASE IN RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY, AND TOOK TEN WEEKS TO TRY.. THREE, WARREN BURGER, PRESENT ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HEAD OF CIVIL DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT, PARENTHESIS THE COURT ADVISED DAVIS OF MR. BURGER-S PRESENT EMPLOYMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT PARENTHESIS.. FOUR, ALFRED LINDLEY, MINNEAPOLIS, PARENTHESIS THE COURT ADVISED DAVIS THAT LINDLEY WAS DECEASED PARENTHESIS.. AND FIVE, DASH LEVANDER, PARENTHESIS TWO BROTHERS, BERNHARDT AND HAROLD PARENTHESIS, BOTH PROMINENT LAWYERS IN MINNEAPOLIS. THE COURT THEREUPON ADVISED DAVIS THAT IT WOULD APPOINT AN ATTORNEY FOR HIM AND THAT THE COURT WOULD CONFER WITH DAVIS ATTORNEY AND MR. ALEX DIM TO SET A DATE FOR THE HEARING.. HOWEVER, WOULD GIVE DAVIS ATTORNEY AMPLE TIME TO CONFER WITH DAVIS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE HEARING, ALEX DIM ADVISED THAT HE HAD A CONFERENCE WITH JUDGE NORDBYE IN HIS CHAMBERS AND THAT HE RECOMMENDED TO THE JUDGE THAT HARLAN STRONG BE APPOINTED BY THE COURT AS DAVIS ATTORNEY, AND MR. DIM ASKED THAT THE COURT SET MARCH TWENTY-THIRD, NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR, AS THE DATE FOR DAVIS HEARING, AND THAT THE SAME WOULD

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

BE THE DATE FOR ANSWERING TO SUBPOENAS FOR WITNESSES. MR. DIM ADVISED THAT HE CONTEMPLATED HAVING SUBPOENAS ISSUED FOR ALL FORMER AGENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE APPREHENSION, SEARCH, QUESTIONING AND DEPORTATION OF DAVIS, AND MR. DIM ADVISED THAT HE WOULD GO OVER THE LIST OF WITNESSES TO BE SUBPOENAED WITH SA SIGURD FLAATA AT NINE A. M. ON MARCH ONE, NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR. IN VIEW OF BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS SET FORTH IN RE BUREAU AIRTEL DATED FEBRUARY NINE, NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR, WHICH SETS FORTH, BEFORE ANY FORMER SPECIAL AGENTS ARE SUBPOENAED CLEARANCE SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU. THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO SUTEL MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION BY NINE A. M. CST MARCH ONE, NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR, ANY ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS, COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS RELATIVE TO SUBPOENA OF FORMER AGENTS. THE BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

CORR PAGE TWO LINE NINE WORD ONE IS BERNHARDT

PAGE TWO LINE FIFTEEN WORD ELEVEN IS HIS

PAGE THREE LINE SIX SHD BE SA SIGURD FLAATA

END AND ACK PLS

7-05 PM OK FBI WA NRB

M

*cc Mr. Rosen*

SAC, Minneapolis (7-30)

March 5, 1954

Director, FBI (7-576)

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

VOLNEY DAVIS, was., et al  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Reurtel March 1, 1954.

Attached hereto are the original and one copy of a signed statement furnished by Bureau Supervisor Arthur J. Norstrom concerning his recollection of interviews conducted by him with Volney Davis at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, during the year 1935.

For your information, the results of these interviews were incorporated in reports submitted by this Agent dated August 24, 1935, and September 26, 1935, at Kansas City, Missouri. His recollection of the interviews was refreshed from reviewing the above-mentioned reports; also, many of the details of the interviews were independently recalled because of the importance of the subject matter discussed.

It is noted that SA Norstrom was accompanied on each of his interviews with Davis by former SA A. E. Farland, who is now deceased.

The statement furnished by SA Norstrom should be incorporated in the next investigative report submitted by your office. A subpoena for SA Norstrom should be addressed to him at the Seat of Government.

Attachment

RECORDED - 5

7-576-15360

MAR 8 1954  
130

MTC:mrs

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Gandy  
Mohr  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Miss Gandy

0 MAR 16 1954

MAILED 2  
MAR 5 1954  
COMM-FBI

Washington, D. C.

March 3, 1954

I, Arthur J. Norstrom, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., make the following statement with reference to interviews with Volney Davis at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1935 in which I participated:

I entered on duty with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 30, 1934, and for a period of time while I was assigned to the Kansas City Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation I was exclusively engaged in the investigation relating to the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer. On August 23, 1935, together with the late SA Albert E. Farland, I interviewed Volney Davis at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, for the greater portion of a day. During this and two subsequent interviews with Davis on August 26, 1935, and September 9, 1935, conducted by myself and SA Farland, Davis talked freely without restraint. He furnished important detailed information concerning certain aspects of the investigation and persons involved therein.

No promises were made to him and he advised that he expected no favors. At no time during the interview did he make any allegation of mistreatment at the time of his arrest, nor did he allege that promises were made to him prior to the imposition of sentence.

Arthur J. Norstrom  
Special Agent

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

AJN:mrs

*mrs*

7-576-15360  
ENCLOSURE

*gr*

## Office Memorandum • UNITED

S GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: March 1, 1954

FROM : Mr. Price

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was. (DECEASED)  
 ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (DECEASED)  
 VOLNEY DAVIS, et al,  
 EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING

Tolson  
 Ladd  
 Nichols  
 Belmont  
 Clegg  
 Glavin  
 Harbo  
 Rosen  
 Tracy  
 Gearty  
 Mohr  
 Winterrowd  
 Tele. Room  
 Holloman  
 Sizoo  
 Miss Gandy

On 1-22-35, subject Volney Davis was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury, St. Paul, Minnesota, on two counts charging him and others with conspiring to transport the kidnaped victim, Bremer, from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Bensenville, Illinois, and to hold him for \$200,000 ransom in violation of the laws of the United States.

On 2-6-35, Volney Davis was arrested by Bureau Agents at Kansas City, Missouri, but effected his escape at Yorkville, Illinois, on the same date. Davis was again taken into custody by Bureau Agents at Chicago, Illinois, on 6-1-35 and removed the following day to St. Paul by Bureau Agents in a chartered plane. On 6-3-35, Davis entered a plea of guilty in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, to the above-described indictment and on 6-7-35, he was sentenced to serve life imprisonment.

On 12-5-52, Volney Davis filed a petition in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, for release on habeas corpus. Davis' petition was based on eight separate points which included, among other things, the allegation that he was not represented by counsel at the time of his sentencing, did not waive this right to representation by counsel, was not advised of his constitutional rights, was held incommunicado in chains and secrecy following his arrest, and was told by his captors that if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given a term of years rather than a death or life sentence.

On 2-26-54, Davis appeared before U. S. District Judge Gunnar H. Nordeye, St. Paul, at which time he was advised that the court would appoint an attorney to represent him in the pending habeas corpus action. AUSA Alex Dim, St. Paul, has advised that following this hearing, he conferred with Judge Nordeye and recommended to the Judge that Harlan Strong, former president, Hennepin County Bar Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, be appointed by the court as Davis' attorney. Mr. Dim also advised that he requested the court to set Davis' hearing for 3-23-54. At the specific request of Mr. Dim, signed statements have been obtained from all Agents and former Agents who participated in the apprehension, questioning, search, or trans-

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SE-32

MAR 8 1954

RECORDED - 28  
EX - 107

PERS. FILES

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

portation of Davis following his arrest in Chicago. Mr. Dim has advised that he will probably subpoena all Agents and former Agents who participated in this matter as Government witnesses at the forthcoming hearing.

The following Agents will, therefore, be subject to subpoena: Samuel W. Hardy, Minneapolis Office; Raymond C. Suran, San Diego Office; E. E. Kuhnle, San Antonio Office; Earl H. Williams, Omaha Office; Michael Cassidy, San Francisco Office. Each of these Agents has denied Davis' allegations against the Bureau.

The following listed former Agents will also be subject to subpoena as Government witnesses:

Melvin H. Purvis, 1356 Cherokee Road, Florence, South Carolina, former SAC of the Chicago Office. Purvis supervised the investigation and apprehension of Davis and in his signed statement denies that Davis received any inhuman treatment from any employee of the FBI. He further stated that Davis was not deprived of his constitutional rights and that Davis was not promised that he would be given a short term of years if he would plead guilty. Purvis stated "I did not make any promise of this sort and I know of none being made by any other employee of the FBI. It was always our policy to make no promises with regard to such things to any person involved."

Maxwell Chaffetz, 6635 McCallum Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, participated in the arrest of Davis at Chicago, Illinois, on 6-1-35 and in his signed statement denies each of the allegations made by Davis against the Bureau.

John E. Brennan, 4410 Dresden Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, denies each allegation made by Davis against the Bureau and stated that Davis was never informed by him nor by anyone else in his presence that a plea of guilty would result in a reduced sentence.

James M. Klees, attorney, St. Paul, Minnesota, denies the allegations made against the Bureau by Davis and states that Davis, while in the custody of Bureau Agents at St. Paul, impressed him as being fully aware of the charges against him in the indictment as well as the probable penalty that could be imposed.

Harold E. Andersen, Whittier, California, who was SAC of the St. Paul Office at the time of Davis' sentencing and who is presently employed by the National Board of Fire

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen

Underwriters, stated that when Davis was brought to the FBI Office at St. Paul, he was handcuffed and had leg irons to which a traveling chain was attached. He stated that as the St. Paul Office had no detention facilities and Davis had previously effected an escape, he decided for reasons of safety to have the traveling chain from the leg irons attached to a radiator. He stated that when this was accomplished, Davis' handcuffs were removed and Davis, thereafter, sat in a chair perhaps three or four feet from the radiator. He denies each of the allegations made by Davis against the Bureau and states further that Davis appeared to be normal both physically and mentally and was well aware of the facts and the probable sentence at the time he entered his plea.

Harold A. Martin, manager, Industrial Department, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Jacksonville, Florida, states that he was present during the apprehension of Davis at Chicago and categorically denies the allegations made against the Bureau by Davis.

Harry W. Stewart, attorney, West Palm Beach, Florida, in his signed statement denied any mistreatment of Davis during the apprehension or thereafter.

Frank M. Headley, president, H-R Representatives, Inc., New York, New York, who assisted in the apprehension of Davis, in his signed statement emphatically denies the allegations made against the Bureau by Davis.

A. H. Johnson, Investigators, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, stated that he is unable to recall Volney Davis or participating in the arrest or detention of this individual.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Due to the seriousness of the charges made by Volney Davis against both present and former Bureau personnel, it is recommended that the Bureau interpose no objection to the proposed subpoena of any of the individuals named herein as Government witnesses at the forthcoming hearing to be held in this matter in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota.

*mic*  
*OK*  
*3-1-54*  
*only 6*  
*o/jk*

*OK*  
*3-3-*

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

March 4, 1954

Director, FBI

VOLNEY DAVIS  
HABEAS CORPUS  
(Your reference 109-39-1, RSE)

Attached hereto are copies of the following reports which contain the results of investigation conducted in this matter to date:

Report of Special Agent Sigurd Flaata dated February 25, 1954, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of Special Agent Roswell T. Spencer dated February 25, 1954, at Chicago, Illinois.

Report of Special Agent Eugene R. Clark, Jr., dated February 25, 1954, at New York, New York.

Report of Special Agent William M. Hawkins dated February 19, 1954, at Kansas City, Missouri.

Report of Special Agent John Riley Smith dated February 24, 1954, at Miami, Florida.

Report of Special Agent Earl H. Williams dated February 22, 1954, at Omaha, Nebraska.

Report of Special Agent Robert E. Cullison dated February 23, 1954, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Report of Special Agent Robert J. Ansens dated February 18, 1954, at St. Louis, Missouri.

Report of Special Agent E. E. Kuhnelt dated February 18, 1954, at San Antonio, Texas.

Report of Special Agent Raymond G. Suran dated February 18, 1954, at San Diego, California.

Report of Special Agent Kennerly R. Corbett dated February 23, 1954, at Savannah, Georgia.

Report of Special Agent Thomas J. Jenkins dated February 25, 1954, at Washington, D. C.

MAILED 2  
MAR 5 1954  
COMM - FBI

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MAILED 2  
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Tolson  
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Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Gearty  
Mohr  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Holloman  
Miss Gandy

Attachment

MTC:ars



MARCH 2, 1954

URGENT

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS & LOS ANGELES

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL MARCH ONE LAST AND BUTEL TO  
MINNEAPOLIS SAME DATE. REVIEW OF BUFILES REVEALS THAT INDIVIDUAL REFERRED TO IN REFERENCED MINNEAPOLIS TELETYPE AS SA E. L. COCHRON IS IDENTICAL WITH FORMER SA EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN WHO RESIGNED FROM BUREAU IN PORTYONE AND NOT IDENTICAL WITH SA EDWARD L. COCHRAN, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED BALTIMORE DIVISION. FOR INFO LOS ANGELES, AUSA ALEX DIM HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL AGENTS AND FORMER AGENTS WHO CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS WITH VOLNEY DAVIS SUBSEQUENT TO THE TIME OF HIS SENTENCE AND DURING PERIOD OF HIS INCARCERATION AT LEAVENWORTH PENITENTIARY BE LOCATED AND QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER DAVIS MADE ANY ALLEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT AT TIME OF ARREST OR ALLEGATIONS AS TO PROMISES BY AGENTS PRIOR TO SENTENCING. FORMER SA EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN PARTICIPATED IN INTERVIEW OF DAVIS AT LEAVENWORTH TOGETHER WITH SA A. E. FARLAND (DECEASED) ON JUNE TWENTYEIGHT THIRTYFIVE. COCHRAN IN JANUARY FIFTYTWO RESIGNED HIS POSITION WITH THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS, USAP, WASHINGTON, D. C., AND LEFT A FORWARDING ADDRESS OF SIX TWO FOUR TWENTYTHIRD STREET, SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, WHICH IS THE MOST RECENT ADDRESS AVAILABLE FOR HIM. LA IMMEDIATELY ATTEMPT TO LOCATE COCHRAN AND SECURE STATEMENT FROM HIM COVERING HIS RECOLLECTION OF ABOVE INTERVIEW. HE SHOULD BE QUESTIONED SPECIFICALLY ON THE TWO POINTS MENTIONED HEREIN. SUPTEL BUREAU AND MINNEAPOLIS RESULTS OF YOUR INVESTIGATION.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

79 JUN 25 1954

COPIES DESTROYED

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MTC:mrs

HOOVER

7-49 P-14

RECEIVED - CIVIL

NOTE:

On 3-1-54 AUSA Alex Dim, St. Paul, Minnesota, advised that he is now ready to issue subpoenas for the Government witnesses who will be used in this case. He has indicated that he may desire to subpoena Cochran and the other Agents who participated in the interviews of Davis during the period of his confinement at Leavenworth.

Information as to 1952 address for Cochran obtained from Office of Special Investigation, USAF, by supervisor E. S. Sanders, Liaison Section.

Edward Louis Cochran identified as Agent who conducted interview at Leavenworth by Supervisor A. J. Norstrom, Division 5, who was stationed in Kansas City at the time and also participated in interviews of Davis.

Los Angeles office cognizant of current investigation.

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
F.B.I.  
MAR 5 2 51 PM '54  
REC'D - LOS ANGELES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

AIR-TEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to: DIRECTOR, FBI

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS  
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

3/5/54

AIR MAIL

BREKID. RE BUREAU FILE 7-576) AND RE BUTEL 3/2/54. FOR  
INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, HOWARD MILTON MASON, FBI #1842312,  
SUBJECT IN BANK ROBBERY CASE, BUREAU FILE 91-7231, AND WHO  
HAS ENTERED PLEA OF GUILTY TO BANK ROBBERY AND IS PRESENTLY  
AWAITING SENTENCE AT RAMSEY COUNTY JAIL, ST. PAUL, ADVISED  
BUREAU AGENTS WHEN CONTACTED ON BANK ROBBERY CASE, THAT HE  
IS A FELLOW PRISONER OF VOLNEY DAVIS. MASON STATED DAVIS  
TOLD HIM HE HOPES TO ACT AS CO-COUNSEL IN HIS OWN DEFENSE AT  
HEARING AND HOPES TO WIN NEW TRIAL FOR THE REASON, IN DAVIS'  
OPINION, THAT A SECOND CONVICTION WOULD BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE  
OF UNAVAILABILITY OF WITNESSES AND LACK OF EVIDENCE DUE TO  
GREAT PERIOD OF TIME WHICH HAS ELAPSED SINCE HE WAS SENTENCED.  
ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, ADVISED TODAY HE WILL HOLD CONFERENCE  
WITH HARLAN STRONG, COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR DAVIS, ON  
MARCH 10, NEXT, AND ANTICIPATES COURT WILL SET HEARING FOR  
FIRST WEEK IN APRIL, AND THAT SUBPOENAS WILL BE ISSUED FOR  
WITNESSES AFTER DEFINITE DATE SET FOR HEARING. BUREAU WILL BE  
KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

7-30  
SF/mtApproved: CAH-s  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED - 40

MAR 8 1954

EX-124

Mr. Rosen

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

70 MAR 16 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MARCH 11, 1954

URGENT

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

RECORDED - 50 7-576-15364

Transmit the following message SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

BREKID. REURTEL MARCH TEN. COPY REPORT SA LOGAN J. LANE, LA,  
MARCH FIVE, LAST, SHOULD BE FURNISHED USA, ST. PAUL, INASMUCH AS  
LATTER ENTITLED TO INFORMATION THEREIN AND TO PRECLUDE USA BEING  
SURPRISED BY ANDERSEN'S PROBABLE TESTIMONY. POINT OUT TO USA  
DISCREPANCY BETWEEN STATEMENT OF ANDERSEN AND RECOLLECTIONS OF  
OTHER AGENTS MENTIONED REFERENCED TEL.

HOOVER

FWD:eck

Note: Volney Davis, currently seeking relief from life sentence  
via habeas corpus, arrested by Bureau Agents 6-1-35,  
Chicago, Illinois, after having previously escaped Bureau  
custody on 2-6-35. On 6-2-35, Davis conveyed by Agents  
via chartered plane to St. Paul, Minnesota, where, on  
6-3-35, he pleaded guilty to kidnaping. On 6-7-35, he  
received life sentence. Former SAC Andersen recalls that,  
at St. Paul office, the traveling chain from leg irons  
on Davis was attached to radiator as safety factor.  
Davis' handcuffs were then removed and he sat in a chair  
three or four feet from the radiator. As noted in  
incoming teletype, other Agents present have no  
recollection re Davis being chained to radiator.

COPIES DESTROYED

100 MAR 23 1965

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 11 1954

TELETYPE

MAR 23 1954

SENT VIA

Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 10 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Boardman

Mr. Nichols

Mr. Belmont

Mr. Glavin

Mr. Ladd

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Mohr

Mr. Winterrowd

Mr. Holloman

Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

3/10/54

4-55 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

BREKID, KIDNAPPING. REBUFILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX.

REPT OF SA LOGAN J. LANE DATED MARCH FIVE LAST AT LOS ANGELES

RE REPT SETS FORTH SIGNED STATEMENT FORMER SAC HAROLD E. ANDERSON

WHICH REFLECTS HIS RECOLLECTION VOLNEY DAVIS CHAINED WITH TRAVELING-

CHAIN FROM LEG IRON TO RADIATOR IN ST. PAUL OFFICE ON JUNE THREE

THIRTYFIVE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED OTHER AGENTS INCLUDING SA SAMUEL

W. HARDY, MP OFFICE, FORMER SA JOHN E. BRENNAN, ST. LOUIS AND

FORMER SA JAMES M. KLEES, ST. PAUL, PRESENT WITH DAVIS ON JUNE

THREE, THIRTYFIVE, AND DENY DAVIS WAS HANDCUFFED TO RADIATOR IN

ST. PAUL OFFICE. IN VIEW OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND PNTENTIAL PUBLICITY

WHICH THIS CASE WILL ATTRACT, THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE ANY

SPECIAL HANDLING OF INFORMATION IN REREP. UACB COPY OF RE REPT

WILL BE FURISHED AUSA ST. PAUL, MINN. TEN O-CLOCK CST ON MARCH

TWELVE NEXT. FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, AUSA DIM ADVISED TODAY

HE WILL CONFER WITH COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY HARLAN STRONG

MARCH TWELVE NEXT TO SET DATE FOR HEARING. BUEAU WILL BE KEPT

ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

RECORDED - 50

EX 107

HOWARD

MAR 12 1954

CORR PLS

LINE TEN WD TEN SHD BE

"POTENTIAL"

Mr. Rosen

END AND ACK PLS

/S 6-02 OK FBI WA IS

TKS AND DISC PLS

MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

March 16, 1954

Director, FBI

VOLNEY DAVIS  
HABEAS CORPUS  
(YOUR REFERENCE 109-39-1, RSE)

Attached hereto are copies of the following reports which contain the results of investigation conducted in this matter to date:

Report of Special Agent Philip G. Bowser, Jr., dated March 3, 1954, at San Francisco, California.

Report of Special Agent Logan J. Lane dated March 5, 1954, at Los Angeles, California.

*captured  
released*

*L*  
Attachment

MTC:eck  
*de*

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*JP*

*APR 10 8 02 AM '54*  
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EX-129

MAR 17 1954

7-576-75365

*Rm*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
MAR 16 1954  
MAILED 31

55 MAR 16 1954

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CINCINNATI

REPORT MADE AT <b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/3/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/23/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>PHILIP G. BOWSER, JR. wap</b>
TITLE <b>ALVIN KARPIS, was. (Deceased); ARTHUR R. BARKER, was. (Deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS, was., etal EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPING</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: SA MICHAEL J. CASSIDY advises participated in apprehension of VOLNEY DAVIS on June 1, 1935 at Chicago, Illinois and accompanied DAVIS on June 2, 1935 on flight to St. Paul, Minnesota. At no time was there any discussion with DAVIS regarding his case by any of the agents in the presence of CASSIDY nor did he have discussion with DAVIS about his having a lawyer to represent him. SA CASSIDY did not hear DAVIS ask any Special Agents if he could talk with a lawyer nor did he hear any agents say to DAVIS, "we are all lawyers, we will take care of you".</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p><u>AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA</u></p> <p>Special Agent MICHAEL J. CASSIDY furnished the following statement concerning the apprehension of VOLNEY DAVIS at Chicago, Illinois and subsequent transportation to St. Paul, Minnesota on June 1 and 2, 1935:</p> <p>"This is to advise that acting upon instructions of MELVIN H. PURVIS, then Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the writer, accompanied by Mr. PURVIS and Special Agents RAY C. SURAN and MAX CHAFFETZ, proceeded to 1046 Waller Street on the afternoon of June 1, 1935 and there took into custody VOLNEY DAVIS. He was thereafter brought to the Chicago Office of the FBI where a detailed search of his person was made by the writer and Special Agent A. H. JOHNSON. DAVIS was then furnished with clean coveralls and a pair of slippers and was placed in a detention cell which was maintained as part of the Chicago Office.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>COPIES DESTROYED</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
168 MAR 26 1954		7- 576-15366	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		RECORDED - 76	
3 - Bureau (7-576) (AIRMAIL)		MAR 8 1954	
2 - Cincinnati (7-43)			
3 - Minneapolis (7-30) (1-USA, St. Paul)			
1 - San Francisco (7-33)			

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50255-2

"The writer did not engage in any discussion with DAVIS regarding his case and did not hear Special Agent JOHNSON in any discussion with DAVIS regarding his case. The writer took no part in the interview of DAVIS following his arrest, it being understood that such interview with DAVIS would be conducted by Special Agents SURAN and CHAFFETZ.

"On the afternoon of June 2, 1935 the writer was assigned to assist Special Agent SURAN and other agents in transporting VOLNEY DAVIS from Chicago, Illinois to St. Paul, Minnesota. Travel to the Municipal Airport was accomplished in a regular passenger car and it had no curtains. Travel to St. Paul was accomplished in a chartered airplane and it is recalled that a landing at Madison, Wisconsin was made necessary because of bad flying weather. After the weather cleared, the trip was made without further incident to St. Paul, arrival there being at approximately 6:00 AM on June 3, 1935. At this point, VOLNEY DAVIS was given into the custody of Special Agent in Charge HAROLD E. ANDERSON and Special Agent JOHN E. BRENNAN, of the St. Paul Office. The writer and the other Special Agents of the Chicago Office returned directly to Chicago from the St. Paul airport.

"During the travel from the Chicago Office to the St. Paul airport there was no discussion with DAVIS regarding his case by any of the agents who traveled with DAVIS.

"At no time did the writer have any discussion with DAVIS about his having a lawyer to represent him, nor did the writer at any time hear DAVIS ask any of the other Special Agents if he could talk to a lawyer. Further, the writer never heard any agent say to DAVIS, "we are all lawyers, we will take care of you".

- RUC -

- 2 -



San Francisco 7-33

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

It may be noted that copies of the statement from SA MICHAEL J. CASSIDY were forwarded to the Bureau and Minneapolis Office by letter dated February 23, 1954.

REFERENCE - Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated February 12, 1954 at Minneapolis.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

DATE: 3/9/54

FROM : SAC, DENVER (7-5)

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, was. (deceased); ARTHUR  
 R. BARKER, was. (deceased); VOLNEY DAVIS,  
 was. et al; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER -  
 VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING

Reference is made to Minneapolis teletype to Bureau dated 3/1/54, 2:15 PM, entitled BREKID, which reflects that on 7/15/35 VOLNEY DAVIS was interviewed at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas by SAS A. E. FARLAND (deceased) and A. S. REEDER.

Reference is also made to the report of SA ROSWELL T. SPENCER dated 2/25/54 at Chicago, on pages four and five thereof, which refers to an interview had by SA A. E. FARLAND and SA A. S. REEDER, at which time he executed a sworn statement, indicating that he desired this property to be delivered to his mother, who at that time resided at Neosho, Missouri.

This is to advise that SA A. S. REEDER recalls quite vividly details concerning this and other interviews had by SA A. E. FARLAND, deceased, with the subject VOLNEY DAVIS. At no time during any of the interviews, at which time Agent REEDER was present did DAVIS ever complain of any mistreatment on the part of any FBI Agents or anyone else. Further, that at all times DAVIS appeared to be very friendly towards the Bureau and its Agents and was particularly interested in writing the manuscript as referred to on page three of the report of SA ROSWELL T. SPENCER in order that same might be used by the Director in combating juvenile delinquency.

A review of the allegations allegedly made by DAVIS as set forth in report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated

ASR:JD  
 CC: 2 - Minneapolis (7-30)

RECORDED - 25

68 APR 8 1954

DN 7-5

February 12, 1954 at Minneapolis, Minnesota, have been made by SA A. S. REEDER and at no time during any interviews with DAVIS at the U. S. Penitentiary did he make any such complaint or even indicate in any manner that he had not received fair and partial treatment, not only by Bureau Agents, but by the Court and other officials that he had appeared before during his appearance at St. Paul, Minnesota.

- R U C -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **MINNEAPOLIS**

REPORT MADE AT <b>LOS ANGELES</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/5/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/24, 25; 3/2, 3/5/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>LOGAN J. LANE ab</b>
TITLE <b>BREKID</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPPING</b>
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Signed statement 2/25/54 by former SAC HAROLD E. ANDERSEN reflects his recollection of activity relating to treatment of VOLNEY DAVIS in FBI office at St. Paul prior to DAVIS' entering plea of guilty in federal court. This statement supplements affidavit furnished by ANDERSEN under date 4/23/40 at Oklahoma City. Signed statement of former SA EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN regarding interview of DAVIS at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, 6/28/35, by COCHRAN and former SA A. E. FARLAND, reflects interview unrecalled by COCHRAN. Text of above statements set forth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>At Los Angeles, California.</u></p> <p>On February 25, 1954, former Special Agent in Charge HAROLD E. ANDERSEN, who now resides at 546 Tedemory Drive, Whittier, California, and is employed as a Special Agent by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, was interviewed concerning his recollection of the activity surrounding the handling of subject VOLNEY DAVIS in the St. Paul Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on or about June 3, 1935.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>3 - Bureau (7-576) AM 3 - Minneapolis (7-30) AM 1 - Los Angeles (7-42)</p> <p><b>53 APR 8 1954</b></p>		<p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">7-576-15368</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAR 9 1954</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RECORDED - 25</p>	

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-50855-1 066

Mr. ANDERSEN was shown the text of his affidavit made at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on April 23, 1940. Supplementing that affidavit, Mr. ANDERSEN dictated the following statement, which was transcribed by a stenographer, and then was signed by Mr. ANDERSEN. The original of the statement dated February 25, 1954, was forwarded to the Minneapolis Office via Registered Mail on February 25, 1954. The statement is quoted:

Los Angeles, California  
February 25, 1954

"I, HAROLD E. ANDERSEN, am making this statement to Special Agent LOGAN J. LANE, JR. of the Federal Bureau of Investigation relative to an affidavit I made in Oklahoma City, April 23, 1940 in connection with habeas corpus proceedings then instituted by VOLNEY DAVIS. Since it now appears material I wish to add the following as a matter of information:

"When we brought DAVIS to the FBI office in the old Post Office Building in St. Paul, he was handcuffed, and had leg irons to which was joined what is known as a traveling chain. This chain is attached to the protective devices and held by the custodian of the prisoner as an added safety precaution.

"At that time the FBI did not have any detention room so it was necessary to keep DAVIS in an office used by several agents. I decided that for reasons of safety it would be advisable to attach the traveling chain, which ran from the leg irons of DAVIS, to a radiator. When this was done, his handcuffs were removed. I wish to point out that DAVIS was not chained to the radiator in the sense of being near it. He sat in a chair, perhaps three or four feet away.

"I might point out that I was fully aware that DAVIS had effected his escape on a prior occasion by attacking an agent guard. Therefore, safety was uppermost in my mind.

"I chatted with DAVIS about mutual hoodlum acquaintances and asked him if he would like breakfast. After he made a selection and under my orders food was provided for him. I had occasion to be in and out of the office and I might say I have left Agent JACK BRENNAN in charge.

"DAVIS expressed surprise at what the FBI had learned about him and his activities and exhibited a lack of faith in anyone. As a matter of fact, he said he knew he was hooked and wanted to get it over with as soon as possible.

"DAVIS did not ask to confer with any of his co-defendants or anyone else. He certainly did not request to use the telephone nor did he ask for an attorney. Had DAVIS requested permission to contact or hire an attorney his request certainly would have been granted.

"As to his mental and physical condition, he appeared normal in every respect.

"I have been informed that DAVIS now contends he was made promises in the event he pleaded guilty. As Agent in Charge of the FBI office any such promise would have come to my attention and I distinctly recall that no promises whatsoever were made to him--certainly not by me to whom he would have looked for promises.

"DAVIS' sole concern seemed to be to dispose of his case as soon as possible. When he told me he would like to plead guilty, immediately I informed him I would confer with the United States Attorney as the FBI had no authority insofar as court procedure was concerned. I did talk with United States Attorney SULLIVAN, who was later U. S. District Judge in Minnesota. He in turn talked with DAVIS before the two of us conferred with the District Judge.

"It is my firm conviction there was nothing illegal in any of the proceedings and that DAVIS well knew the facts and probable sentence when he stood up in court and entered his plea of guilty to kidnapping.

"DAVIS now contends, I am informed that when he requested to see a lawyer he was informed by FBI agents 'We are all lawyers. We will take care of you.' This statement to my knowledge was never made and appears illogical and since DAVIS well knew the position of the FBI agents in the case.

"Even though these many years have passed salient facts are clear in my mind. A full discussion of the circumstances naturally would open my mind and memory to additional facts.

"/s/ HAROLD E. ANDERSEN

"Witness:

"/s/ LOGAN J. LANE, JR., Special Agent, FBI, Los Angeles, California.

"/s/ FRANK H. TOWNSEND, Special Agent, FBI, Los Angeles, California."

On March 3, 1954, former Special Agent EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN, 624 23rd Street, Santa Monica, California, who is now employed as an investigator for the Reconstruction Finance Company, with offices in Room 601, Subway Terminal Building, 417 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed. Mr. COCHRAN was asked for his recollection of an interview conducted by former Special Agent A. E. FARLAND (now deceased) and Mr. COCHRAN with subject VOLNEY DAVIS, on or about June 28, 1935 at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

Mr. COCHRAN furnished the following signed statement, the original of which was forwarded to the Minneapolis office via Registered Mail on March 4, 1954. The statement is quoted:

"Santa Monica, California  
March 3, 1954

"I, the undersigned, EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN, 624 Twenty-third Street, Santa Monica, California, make the following voluntary statement to Special Agent LOGAN J. LANE, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"In June, 1935, I was employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, assigned to the Kansas City Division. My official investigations caused me to accompany Special Agent A. E. FARLAND, who was likewise assigned to the Kansas City Division, on interviews with persons incarcerated at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas. As Special Agent FARLAND was at that time more experienced in investigative work than I, the interviews were conducted almost entirely by him in my presence.

"I recall the name of VOLNEY DAVIS as a person connected with an official investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have no independent recollection of ever having participated with Special Agent FARLAND, or with any other Special Agent, in an interview with VOLNEY DAVIS at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, On June 28, 1935, or on any other date at any other place.

"Such an interview may have taken place, and due to the passage of time, I do not now recall it. I have no recollection that VOLNEY DAVIS at any time or place, stated or alleged in my presence that he had been subjected to mistreatment in any manner, or had been promised anything by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before or after being sentenced for any offense. It is my belief that if VOLNEY DAVIS had made such allegations in my presence, I would now recall them.

"/s/ EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN

"Witness:  
"/s/ Special Agent LOGAN J. LANE, FBI, Los Angeles, California."

- RUC -  
- 5 -



ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Copies of the signed statements of HAROLD E. ANDERSEN and EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN are retained as exhibits in the Los Angeles Office file on this case for possible reference purposes.

A copy of this report was not indicated for the United States Attorney, Minneapolis, it being left to the discretion of the Minneapolis Office to direct such copy of report to the United States Attorney if it is deemed desirable.

Teletype summary of Mr. ANDERSEN'S statement was sent the Minneapolis office on February 25, 1954.

Teletype summary of Mr. COCHRAN'S statement was sent the Bureau and Minneapolis office on March 3, 1954.

REFERENCES:

New York Airtel February 19, 1954 to Los Angeles.  
Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, dated February 12, 1954 at Minneapolis.  
Los Angeles Teletype to Minneapolis dated February 25, 1954.  
Los Angeles Letter to Minneapolis dated February 25, 1954.  
Butel to Minneapolis and Los Angeles dated March 2, 1954.  
Los Angeles Teletype to Bureau and Minneapolis dated March 3, 1954.  
Los Angeles letter to Minneapolis dated March 4, 1954.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL  
Transmit the following *16/9/54* message to: *cy*

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS 3/15/54  
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

*ms*  
BREKID REBUTEL 3/11/54. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, ADVISED HE CONFERRED TODAY WITH HARLAN STRONG, COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS, REGARDING SETTING A DATE FOR HEARING FOR DAVIS, AND THAT STRONG REQUESTED MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE HEARING. DIM STATED STRONG INDICATED HE IS ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE A WITNESS IN TOKYO (WHOM STRONG DID NOT IDENTIFY.) DIM ADVISED HE DOES NOT FEEL HE SHOULD RUSH STRONG ON HEARING DATE AND PREFERS TO GIVE STRONG ALL THE TIME HE DESIRES. DIM STATED HE NOW ANTICIPATES HEARING WILL BE SET FOR DATE EARLY PART OF APRIL. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. *8*

HOWARD

SF:JVR

7-30

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-75

*7-576-15369*  
MAR 17 1954

CC: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

*178*  
55 APR 2

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *M* Per *[Signature]*

AL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL  
Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30) 3/31/54  
DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

AIR

*mw*  
BREKID. AUSA ALEX DIM ADVISED TODAY HE WILL MEET WITH  
HARLAN STRONG, COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS,  
ON APRIL 2 NEXT TO SET DATE FOR HEARING, FOR DAVIS.  
DIM STATED HE ANTICIPATES JUDGE NORDBYE WILL APPROVE  
DATE FOR HEARING AGREED UPON BY ATTORNEY AND DIM  
ADVISED HE WILL REQUEST AT LEAST TWO WEEKS' INTERVAL  
TO PERMIT SUBPOENA OF WITNESSES. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT  
ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

7-30  
SF:PJW

RECORDED - 23

12-576-15370  
APR 1 1954

EX-104

5 5 APR 9 1954

Approved: *CPH*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Rosen

APRIL 19, 1954

AIRTEL

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

(AIRMAIL)

**BREKID.** SUAIRTEL SUMMARY COVERING ANY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS  
THIS MATTER. INCLUDE ADVICE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT DATE FOR  
VOLNEY DAVIS HEARING HAS BEEN SET.

HOOVER

7-576

MTC:dmc *dmc*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parrow \_\_\_\_\_

APR 26 1954

MAILED 7  
APR 19 1954  
COMM - FBI

RECORDED - 122

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
APR 21 1954  
132

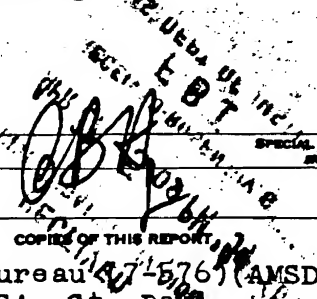
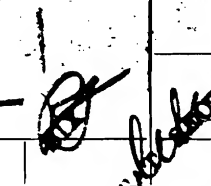
15371

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT MINNEAPOLIS

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT MINNEAPOLIS	DATE WHEN MADE 4/23/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/26; 3/1, 11, 12; 4/2, 20/54	REPORT MADE BY SA SIGURD FLAATA s jm
TITLE VOLNEY DAVIS was, ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM			CHARACTER OF CASE KIDNAPING
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>VOLNEY DAVIS appeared before Honorable GUNNAR NORDBYE, U.S. District Court, St. Paul, Minn., 2/26/54 and upon his request, HARLAN STRONG, attorney, Minneapolis, Minn., was appointed to represent DAVIS at his hearing which Judge NORDBYE stated he would set for a date which would give ample time to attorney for DAVIS. Statements of Bureau Supervisor ARTHUR J. NORSTROM, Washington, D.C. and former SA EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN, Santa Monica, Calif. who interviewed DAVIS at U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, set forth. SA A. S. REEDER, Denver, advised that at no time during any interviews with VOLNEY DAVIS at U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, did DAVIS make any complaint of mistreatment by Bureau agents or any other officials. JOSEPH T. LYNCH, St. Paul, former Deputy Clerk of Court, identified penciled notes on file in office of U.S. Clerk of Court, St. Paul, as made by him at arraignment of VOLNEY DAVIS 6/3/35 which reflect, "#6096 C, June 3, 1935 (JOYCE - J), GEO. F. SULLIVAN, VOLNEY DAVIS is arraigned and on being questioned by the court stated that he did not desire the advice of counsel and entered a plea of guilty. Sentence deferred to June 7, 1935." A. A. BERG, former Deputy U.S. Marshal, Minneapolis, gave signed statement which reflects Judge JOYCE offered to appoint attorney for DAVIS at his arraignment which offer DAVIS declined. AUSA ALEX DIM, St. Paul, advised HARLAN STRONG, court appointed attorney for DAVIS, has requested postponement of hearing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-P-</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
 SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		7-1576-15372 RECORDED - 60 20 APR 26 1954 	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (47-1576) (AMSDY) 1 - USA, St. Paul 2 - Minneapolis (7-30) COPIES DESTROYED 160 MAR 26 1966 <b>COPY IN FILE</b>			

PROPERTY OF FBI - THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-59255-1

DETAILS: At St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota

VOLNEY DAVIS appeared before the Honorable GUNNAR NORDBYE, Judge, U.S. District Court, St. Paul, February 26, 1954, and requested the court to appoint an attorney for him from a list of five attorneys which DAVIS read to the court. This list included HARLAN STRONG, attorney, Minneapolis, who was later appointed by Judge NORDBYE to represent VOLNEY DAVIS at his hearing which the court stated would be set on a date to give ample time to DAVIS' attorney.

By letter dated March 5, 1954, the Bureau furnished the following signed statement furnished by Bureau Supervisor ARTHUR J. NORSTROM concerning his recollection of interviews conducted by him with VOLNEY DAVIS at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, during the year 1935:

"Washington, D.C.

"March 3, 1954

"I, Arthur J. Norstrom, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., make the following statement with reference to interviews with Volney Davis at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1935 in which I participated:

"I entered on duty with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 30, 1934, and for a period of time while I was assigned to the Kansas City Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation I was exclusively engaged in the investigation relating to the kidnaping of Edward George Bremer. On August 23, 1935, together with the late SA Albert E. Farland, I interviewed Volney Davis at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, for the greater portion of a day. During this and two subsequent interviews with Davis on August 26, 1935, and September 9, 1935, conducted by myself and SA Farland, Davis talked freely without restraint. He furnished important detailed information concerning certain aspects of the investigation and persons involved therein.

"No promises were made to him and he advised that he expected no favors. At no time during the interview did he make any allegation of mistreatment at the time of his arrest, nor did he allege that promises were made to him prior to the imposition of sentence.

"/s/ Arthur J. Norstrom  
Arthur J. Norstrom  
Special Agent "

By letter dated March 4, 1954, the Los Angeles Division furnished the following signed statement from former SA EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN, 624 23rd Street, Santa Monica, California, concerning interview with VOLNEY DAVIS conducted by former SA A.E. FARLAND (deceased) and SA EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, on June 28, 1935:

"Santa Monica, California  
March 3, 1954

"I, the undersigned, EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN, 624 Twenty-third Street, Santa Monica, California, make the following voluntary statement to Special Agent LOGAN J. LANE, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"In June, 1935, I was employed as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, assigned to the Kansas City Division. My official investigations caused me to accompany Special Agent A. E. FARLAND, who was likewise assigned to the Kansas City Division, on interviews with persons incarcerated at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas. As Special Agent FARLAND was at that time more experienced in investigative work than I, the interviews were conducted almost entirely by him in my presence.

"I recall the name of VOLNEY DAVIS as a person connected with an official investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have no independent recollection of ever having participated with Special Agent FARLAND, or with any other Special Agent, in an interview with VOLNEY DAVIS at the

U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, on June 28, 1935, or on any other date at any other place.

"Such an interview may have taken place, and due to the passage of time, I do not now recall it. I have no recollection that VOLNEY DAVIS at any time or place, stated or alleged in my presence that he had been subjected to mistreatment in any manner, or had been promised anything by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before or after being sentenced for any offense. It is my belief that if VOLNEY DAVIS had made such allegations in my presence, I would now recall them.

"/s/ EDWARD LOUIS COCHRAN

"Witness:

"/s/ Special Agent LOGAN J. LANE,  
FBI, Los Angeles, Calif."

By letter dated March 9, 1954, the Denver Division advised that SA A. S. REEDER, who is assigned to the Denver Division, recalls quite vividly details concerning interviews had by SA A. E. FARLAND (deceased) with VOLNEY DAVIS at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, at which interviews A. S. REEDER participated. According to the letter from the Denver Division, SA REEDER advised that at no time during any of the interviews at which REEDER was present did DAVIS ever complain of any mistreatment on the part of any FBI agents or anyone else. Further, that at all times DAVIS appeared to be very friendly toward the Bureau and its agents and was particularly interested in writing a manuscript in order that the same might be used by the Director in combating juvenile delinquency. SA REEDER advised further that at no time during any interviews with DAVIS at the U.S. Penitentiary did he make any complaints or indicate in any manner that he had not received fair impartial treatment not only by the Bureau agents but by the court and other officials, that he had appeared before during his appearance in St. Paul, Minnesota.

WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, Deputy Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, advised that penciled notes of the arraignment of VOLNEY DAVIS dated June 3, 1935, from which the official court minutes for that date in criminal docket number



6096 were drawn, are on file in his office. Mr. ECKLEY furnished the Minneapolis Division with a photostatic copy of the penciled notes which Mr. ECKLEY stated were in the handwriting of JOSEPH T. LYNCH, former Deputy Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court, St. Paul, which read as follows: "#6096 Criminal, June 3, 1935 (JOYCE - J), GEO. F. SULLIVAN, VOLNEY DAVIS is arraigned and, on being questioned by the Court, stated that he did not desire the advice of Counsel and entered a plea of guilty. Sentence deferred to June 7, 1935."

A photostat of the above penciled notes were shown to JOSEPH T. LYNCH, former Deputy Clerk of Court, St. Paul, at his place of employment, Minnehaha and White Bear Avenues, St. Paul, on March 1, 1954, at which time Mr. LYNCH identified the handwriting positively as his own. Mr. LYNCH stated that he made the court minutes from his penciled notes and that it was customary to maintain both the penciled notes and the court minutes in the files of the Clerk of Court, St. Paul.

Upon interview ERNEST J. MEILI, Chief U.S. Probation Officer, U.S. Court House, Minneapolis, advised that he was not present at the arraignment or sentencing of VOLNEY DAVIS. Mr. MEILI suggested, however, that A. A. BERG, 4049 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, former Deputy United States Marshal, may have been in court at the time of the arraignment or sentencing of DAVIS. Mr. MEILI pointed out that his former Assistant Probation Officer, JOHN E. BUCKLEY, who was formerly assigned to St. Paul, was deceased and probably covered the sentencing of VOLNEY DAVIS.

ALLIE ALBIN BERG, employed by D. W. Onan & Sons, Incorporated, 2500 University Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, was interviewed at his residence 4049 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis. Mr. BERG advised that he served as a Deputy United States Marshal from 1924 to 1935 and stated that he was present in the court room in St. Paul at the time DAVIS was arraigned and sentenced in 1935. BERG stated he recalled transporting DAVIS from the Ramsey County Jail to the Federal Courts Building however, stated that he did not have any conversation with DAVIS. BERG gave the following signed statement concerning his recollection of the events which transpired at the arraignment of VOLNEY DAVIS on June 3, 1935:

"Minneapolis, Minn.  
Mar. 12, 1954

"I, Allie Albin Berg, 4049 Bryant Avenue South, Minneapolis, furnish the following statement to Special Agent Sigurd Flaata, Federal Bureau of Investigation, freely and voluntarily. I was a United States Deputy Marshall in St. Paul on June 3, 1935 and was in the courtroom of the Federal Courts Building, St. Paul, on that date when Volney Davis was arraigned before Judge Matthew M. Joyce. I recall that Volney Davis was asked how he desired to plead and he stated wanted to get his case over with and enter a plea of guilty. I recall Judge Joyce warned Davis that he was charged with commission of a serious crime and that he might face a life sentence upon his conviction. Judge Joyce offered to appoint an attorney for Davis, however, Davis declined and entered a plea of guilty. I have read the above statement and the facts contained therein are true.

"/s/ Allie Albin Berg

"Witness:

"/s/ Sigurd Flaata,  
Special Agent, F.B.I."

Assistant United States Attorney ALEX DIM, St. Paul, advised on April 20, 1954, that no date has been set for the hearing of VOLNEY DAVIS for the reason that court appointed attorney HARLAN STRONG has requested more time.

-P-

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

THE MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION

At Minneapolis, Minnesota

Will keep the Bureau advised of pertinent developments and court action in this case, and when hearing is set, will furnish Bureau daily summary of developments, as instructed by the Bureau in referenced air-tel.

REFERENCES

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated February 12, 1954, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA dated February 25, 1953, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Bureau air-tel to Minneapolis dated April 19, 1954.

Minneapolis air-tel to Bureau dated April 20, 1954.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

AIR TEL

Transmit the following Teletype Message to:

AIR MAIL

SF:DD

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

4/20/54

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID. REBUAIRTEL APRIL 19, 1954. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, ADVISED THAT HARLAN STRONG, COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS, HAS REQUESTED MORE TIME IN LINING UP WITNESSES, AND THAT STRONG HAS NOT MADE ANY REQUEST FOR DATE TO BE SET UP FOR HEARING FOR DAVIS. DIM STATED THAT JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE, WHO WILL PRESIDE AT HEARING, HAS A FULL COURT CALENDAR AT PRESENT TIME AND DIM INDICATED POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT HEARING MAY NOT BE SET FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. DIM ADVISED THAT WHEN JUDGE NORDBYE SETS DATE FOR HEARING, A REQUEST WILL BE MADE FOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS INTERVAL TO PERMIT SUBPOENA OF WITNESSES. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-48

EX-123

7-576-15373

21 APR 21 1954

5 MAY 6 1954

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

May 18, 1954

Director, FBI

RECORDED - 4

7-576-15374

VOLNEY DAVIS  
HABEAS CORPUS  
(YOUR REFERENCE 109-39-1, RSE)

EX-108

This is to advise that the hearing on Volney Davis' petition for release on habeas corpus has been set by United States District Judge Gunnar Nordbye for June 7, 1954, at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Assistant United States Attorney Alex Dim, St. Paul, Minnesota, has advised that subpoenas are being issued for all Government witnesses.

The above is being furnished for your information and you will be advised of additional developments in this matter.

(7-576)

MTC:eck

*Perence* *JB*

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Mohr
- Trotter
- Winterrowd
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Miss Gandy

DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI

MAY 13 1954  
COMM - FBI

52 MAY 26 1954

MAY 11 4 23 PM '54

*R-2*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following air-tel to:

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576) 5/10/54

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

VOINLEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM,  
KIDNAPPING. REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED MARCH 23, 1954.

ALEX DIM, ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, ST. PAUL,

ADVISED THAT JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYLL HAS SET HEARING FOR

VOINLEY DAVIS FOR JUNE 7, 1954, AT ST. PAUL. MR. DIM FUR-

NISHED FOLLOWING LIST OF WITNESSES NECESSARY FOR HEARING

AND STATED THAT SUBPOENAS BEING ISSUED FOR ALL WITNESSES

EXCEPT BUREAU AGENTS:

BUREAU SUPERVISOR ARTHUR J. NORSTROM, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SA MICHAEL J. CASSIDY, SAN FRANCISCO

SA SAMUEL W. HARDY, MINNEAPOLIS

SA E. E. KUHNEL, SAN ANTONIO

SF:CK  
7-30

cc: 2 - Denver (7-5)  
2 - Los Angeles (7-42)  
3 - Miami (7-24)  
2 - New York (7-120)  
2 - Omaha (7-4)  
2 - Philadelphia (7-45)  
2 - St. Louis (7-43)  
2 - San Antonio (7-41)  
2 - San Diego (7-11)  
2 - San Francisco (7-33)  
2 - Savannah (7-2)  
2 - Washington Field (7-63)

RECORDED - 4 7-576-15374

807-13 9 MAY 12 1954

cc: Mr. Tolson

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen ✓  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI, ST. LOUIS

4-17-54

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576) AND SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30) . . . A I R

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM, KIDNAPING.

RE MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL 5-10-54. FORMER SA JOHN E. BRENNAN ADVISED

BEING SUBPOENAED FOR HEARING AT MINNEAPOLIS RE VOLNEY DAVIS ON

6-7-54.

MILNES

END

RJA:MAF

7-43

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-17

EX-112

7-576-15375  
MAY 19 1954

52 MAY 24 1954

Approved: *JEM*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

29148

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (7-33)

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, wa., etal  
KIDNAPPING

DATE: February 23, 1954

FLAATA

Rerep SA SIGURD FLAATA dated February 12, 1954 at Minneapolis.

Forwarded, herewith, to the Bureau and Minneapolis Office are two copies each of memorandum submitted by SA MICHAEL J. CASSIDY concerning the events surrounding the apprehension of VOLNEY DAVIS and his subsequent transportation to St. Paul, Minnesota on June 1 and June 2, 1935 respectively.

RUC.

PGB:wap  
2 Encls.

cc: Cincinnati  
cc: Minneapolis (2 Encls.)

2 - handled separately

RECORDED - 70  
INDEXED - 70

1954 FEB 23

7-576-15376

MAR 1 1954

218 WVI  
F-467



FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
UNITED STATES DEPART

SION  
USTICE

0-9a

MAY 20, 1954

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

AIRTEL  
AIR MAIL

Transmit the following message to SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

*em* VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL; EDWARD BREMER - VICTIM; KIDNAPING.

FURNISH BUREAU WITH COMPLETE LIST OF ALL INDIVIDUALS

SUBPOENAED AS GOVERNMENT WITNESSES FOR FORTHCOMING HEARING.

INDICATE WHETHER PRESENT OR FORMER BUREAU EMPLOYEES OR  
OTHERWISE CONNECTED WITH THE ORIGINAL SENTENCING OF DAVIS.

IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER AND SERIOUSNESS OF THE ALLEGATIONS  
PREVIOUSLY MADE BY DAVIS AGAINST THE BUREAU, AS WELL AS  
BOTH FORMER AND PRESENT BUREAU EMPLOYEES, YOU SHOULD BE  
PREPARED TO FULLY REPUTE ON THE RECORD ANY SUCH ALLEGATIONS  
WHICH ARE MADE BY DAVIS DURING THE COURSE OF THE IMPENDING  
HEARING. SUAIRTEL.

HOOVER

(7-576)

MTC:eck

EX-106  
RECORDED-42

MAY 21 1954  
132

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM-FBI  
MAY 20 1954  
MAILED 19

68 MAY 25 1954

SENT VIA

M

Per

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL; EDWARD BREMER - VICTIM; KIDNAPING.

REBUAIRTEL 5-20-54 AND MP AIRTEL TO BUREAU 5-10-54. FOR INFO

OF BUREAU, COMPLETE LIST OF GOVERNMENT WITNESSES, INCLUDING

AGENTS, FORMER AGENTS AND OTHERS, FURNISHED TO BUREAU AND

AUXILIARY OFFICES IN REFERENCED MP AIRTEL 5-10-54. ALEX

DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, ADVISED TODAY RECEIPT OF FOLLOWING LIST

OF WITNESSES DESIRED SUBPOENAED BY HARLAN STRONG, COURT

APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS: (1) MELVIN PURVIS,

FORMER SAC, PRESENTLY UNDER SUBPOENA BY GOVERNMENT. (2)

JOHN BRENNAN, FORMER SA, PRESENTLY UNDER SUBPOENA BY GOVERNMENT.

(3) STRONG DESIRED NAME OF AGENT IN CHARGE OF AIRPLANE FLIGHT

FROM CHICAGO TO MP WHEN DAVIS WAS FLOWN TO MP ON 6-3-35. MR.

DIM GAVE STRONG NAME OF MELVIN PURVIS, FORMER SAC, CHICAGO

DIVISION, WHO IS PRESENTLY UNDER SUBPOENA BY GOVERNMENT. (4)

STRONG ADVISED THAT "WHEN DAVIS WAS ARRESTED AN AGENT TOOK

A SHOT AT HIM AND WAS, ACCORDING TO DAVIS, REPRIMANDED BY

PURVIS." MR. DIM GAVE NAME OF SA R. C. SURAN, PRESENTLY UNDER

SUBPOENA BY GOVERNMENT. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO MR. DIM THAT

SF:mlm

7-30

cc: CHICAGO (7-82) (INFO)

Approved: 60H

Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-29

EX-123

MAY 24 1954

Sent        M        Per       

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

PAGE TWO

SA R. C. SURAN REPORTED AT TIME OF APPREHENSION OF DAVIS ON 6-1-35 IN CHICAGO, THAT DAVIS RESISTED ARREST AND IN STRUGGLE WITH AGENT SURAN STRUCK SURAN'S ARM CAUSING HIS REVOLVER TO BE ACCIDENTALLY DISCHARGED. REPORT OF SA KENNERLY R. CORBETT 2-23-54 AT SAVANNAH SETS FORTH SIMILAR INFO FROM FORMER SAC PURVIS SURROUNDING THE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF SURAN'S REVOLVER AT THE TIME OF ARREST OF DAVIS. (5) STRONG FURNISHED THE NAME

[REDACTED]

(6)

(7) GEORGE HEISEY, US REFEREE IN BANKRUPTCY, MP, AND

CO: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-----  
AIRTELTransmit the following ~~teletype~~ message to:

PAGE THREE

FORMER AUSA, ST. PAUL. REPORT OF SA SIGURD FLAATA 2-25-54  
AT MP REFLECTS HEISEY, UPON INTERVIEW, STATED THAT HE HANDLED  
PROSECUTION OF DEFENDANTS, WHO ENTERED PLEAS OF NOT GUILTY  
IN INSTANT CASE, AND THAT USA SULLIVAN (DECEASED) REPRESENTED  
GOVERNMENT AT ARRAIGNMENT AND SENTENCING OF DAVIS. HEISEY  
STATED HE INTERVIEWED DAVIS' GIRLFRIEND, EDNA MURRAY, WHO  
BECAME WITNESS FOR GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, ADVISED HE MADE NO  
PROMISES TO EDNA MURRAY THAT DAVIS WOULD RECEIVE LIGHT SENTENCE  
IF PLEA OF GUILTY ENTERED. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ADVISED TODAY  
GEORGE HEISEY NOW BEING SUBPOENAED AS WITNESS FOR GOVERNMENT.  
(8) JAMES JACK WILSON, WAS., WHO WAS SENTENCED WITH DAVIS ON  
6-7-35 TO FIVE YEARS US REFORMATORY, CHILlicothe, OHIO. MR.  
DIM STATED HE HAS ADVISED MR. STRONG IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE  
SUBPOENAS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT FOR WITNESSES  
STRONG DESIRES AND THAT SUBPOENAS FOR OTHER WITNESSES TURNED  
OVER TO USM, ST. PAUL. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF  
DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECORDED-39

MAY 25, 1954

URGENT

7-576-15378

SACS, MINNEAPOLIS, CHICAGO

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL MAY TWENTY-ONE LAST.

7-1  
b7D  
EX-123

[REDACTED]

CHICAGO MAKE DISCREET INQUIRY

PRESENTLY

RESIDING THAT ADDRESS. IF NEGATIVE, CHECK CRIMINAL AND CREDIT RECORDS, CITY DIRECTORIES, AND OTHER LOGICAL SOURCES IN EFFORT TO ASCERTAIN [REDACTED] RESIDING CHICAGO. NO ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE [REDACTED] SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT PRIOR BUREAU

APPROVAL. [REDACTED]

LIST OF GOVERNMENT WITNESSES

REFERRED TO [REDACTED] AIRTEL NOT RECEIVED AT BUREAU, MINNEAPOLIS

- Tolson
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Belmont
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Harbo
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Mohr
- Trotter
- Wigler
- Tele. Room
- Holloman
- Miss Gandy

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 25 1954

TELETYPE

COPIES DESTROYED

MAR 26 1968

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
HOOVER

NOTE:

Volney Davis, who is currently seeking relief from life sentence via habeas corpus will be afforded hearing in USDC, St. Paul, June 7, 1954.

b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 25 1954

TELETYPE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

529 PC.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy  
ROS-NJC

AIRTEL

Transmit the following TELETYPE message to:

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

6/3/54

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ETAL, EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM; KIDNAPPING.

RE MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL TO BUREAU 5/10/54, BUREAU AIRTEL TO MINNEAPOLIS 5/21/54, MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL TO BUREAU 5/21/54, AND MINNEAPOLIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, SAN FRANCISCO, SAN ANTONIO, DENVER, SAN DIEGO AND OMAHA 6/3/54.

AUSA ALEX DIM, ST. PAUL, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE

HAS RESET THE HEARING FOR VOLNEY DAVIS FROM 6/7/54 AT ST. PAUL UNTIL

WEDNESDAY, 7/7/54, AT ST. PAUL, AT 9:00 A.M. BUREAU AND INTERESTED

OFFICES WHICH HAVE AGENTS SUBPOENAED THEREFROM WERE ADVISED BY REFERENCED

TELETYPE THAT NECESSARY AGENT WITNESSES SHOULD BE IN ST. PAUL AT

9:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, 7/7/54. AUSA DIM IS SENDING TELEGRAMS TO ALL

OTHER WITNESSES WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN REFERENCED 5/10/54

AIRTEL AND WHO WERE SUBPOENAED. ABOVE BEING FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION

OF OFFICES WHO HAVE WITNESSES UNDER SUBPOENA.

7-30

HOWARD

cc: 2 - DENVER (7-5)  
2 - LOS ANGELES (7-42)  
2 - MIAMI (7-24)  
2 - NEW YORK (7-120)  
2 - OMAHA (7-4)  
2 - PHILADELPHIA (7-45)  
2 - ST. LOUIS (7-43)  
2 - SAN ANTONIO (7-41)  
2 - SAN DIEGO (7-11)  
2 - SAN FRANCISCO (7-33)  
2 - SAVANNAH (7-2)  
2 - WASHINGTON FIELD (7-63)

RECORDED-31

Mr. Rosen

JUN 7 1954

55 JUN 11 1954

Approved:

SAMUEL HARDY, MINNEAPOLIS  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**AIRTEL**

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

**FBI, MINNEAPOLIS**

5/26/54

**DIRECTOR, FBI**

DR, FBI  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER

BREXID. REBUTEL 5/25/54 AND MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL 5/10/54. REFERENCED

TELETYPE STATES THAT LIST OF GOVERNMENT WITNESSES REFERRED TO IN

REFERENCED MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL DATED 5/10/54 NOT RECEIVED AT BUREAU.

ENCLOSED HERewith ARE THREE COPIES OF MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL 5/10/54.

HOWARD

7-30

**Encs.**

**Mr. Rosen**

**RECORDED-80**

**EX-100**

17 MAY 27 1954

**Approved:**

Special Agent in Charge

**Sent**

**Por**

2 JUN 1 8 1954



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

AIRTEL

Transmit the following TELETYPE message to:

DIRECTOR FBI (7-576) 5/10/54

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM, KIDNAPPING.

REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED MARCH 23, 1954. ALEX DIM, ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, ST. PAUL, ADVISED THAT JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE HAS SET HEARING FOR VOLNEY DAVIS FOR JUNE 7, 1954, AT ST. PAUL. MR. DIM FURNISHED FOLLOWING LIST OF GOVERNMENT WITNESSES NECESSARY FOR HEARING AND STATED THAT SUBPOENAS BEING ISSUED FOR ALL WITNESSES EXCEPT BUREAU AGENTS:

BUREAU SUPERVISOR ARTHUR J. NORSTROM, WASHINGTON, D. C.

SA MICHAEL J. CASSIDY, SAN FRANCISCO

SA SAMUEL W. HARRIS, MINNEAPOLIS

SA E. E. KUHNEL, SAN ANTONIO

SA A. S. REEDER, DENVER

SA RAYMOND C. SURAN, SAN DIEGO

SA EARL H. WILLIAMS, OMAHA

MELVIN H. FURVIS, FORMER SAC, FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

MAXWELL CHAFFETZ, FORMER SA, PHILADELPHIA

JOHN E. BRENNAN, FORMER SA, ST. LOUIS

JAMES M. KLEES, FORMER SA, ST. PAUL

HAROLD E. ANDERSEN, FORMER SAC, WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

HARRY M. STEWART, FORMER SA, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

COPIES DESTROYED

100 MAR 26 1965

Approved:

SF:CK  
7-30

Mr. Rosen

Special Agent in Charge

ENCLOSURE

7-576-15380

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-2-

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

HAROLD A. MARTIN, FORMER SA, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

FRANK M. HEADLEY, FORMER SA, NEW YORK CITY

ROBERT THOMPSON, FORMER REPORTER, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND

EDWARD R. PICH, FORMER COURT BAILIFF, ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA

NORTON RISEDORPH, FORMER CHIEF JAILER, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

THOMAS GIBBONS, SHERIFF, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

MRS. VIRGINIA SCHWEITZ, SECRETARY TO SHERIFF, ST. PAUL

JOHN DE COURCY, ATTORNEY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

WILLIAM H. ECKLEY, U. S. COMMISSIONER, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

JOSEPH T. LYNCH, FORMER DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT, ST. PAUL

JACK B. MACKAY, REPORTER, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

RONALD HAZEL, ATTORNEY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

EARL MORRISON, DEPUTY U. S. MARSHAL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

LOUIS GOLLOP, REPORTER, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

CLERK OF COURT FOR U. S. DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF

CALIFORNIA, SOUTHERN DIVISION, SAN FRANCISCO, WHO WILL BRING FILES AND  
RECORDS RE VOLNEY DAVIS.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, MR. DIM ADVISED FURTHER THAT HOWARD  
GELB, ATTORNEY, ST. PAUL, MINN., AND FORMER ASSISTANT UNITED STATES  
ATTORNEY, IS ASSISTING HARLAN STRONG, COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR  
VOLNEY DAVIS. DIM ALSO STATED THAT ALTHOUGH NO SUBPOENA IS BEING

ISSUED, JUDGE MATTHEW M. JOYCE, U. S. DISTRICT COURT, MINNEAPOLIS, WHO

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-3-

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

SENTENCED VOLNEY DAVIS JUNE 7, 1935, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TESTIFY FOR  
GOVERNMENT AT HEARING FOR DAVIS. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF  
DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

c c m l Rosen.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

Transmit the following TELETYPE message to:

FBI, CHICAGO (7-82)

June 3, 1954

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID. REBUTEL 5/25/54. USM, CHICAGO, ADVISED THEY RECEIVED SUBPOENAS

[REDACTED], BUT  
HAD BEEN UNABLE TO SERVE EITHER AS THEY ARE UNKNOWN AT THAT ADDRESS. USM  
WILL ADVISE IF SERVICE OBTAINED WHICH USM BELIEVES UNLIKELY. CREDIT,  
CRIMINAL, CITY DIRECTORIES AND DISCREET INQUIRY AT [REDACTED] DEVELOPED  
NOTHING AS TO PRESENT WHEREABOUTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WITNESS FORMER SA FRANK HEADLY ADVISED TO BE IN ST.  
PAUL JUNE SEVENTH NEXT. NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED TO  
LOCATE [REDACTED] UACB. RUC.

BANISTER

RTS:LMA

1 - MINNEAPOLIS (7-30)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED-96

EX-128

10 JUN 7 1954

55 JUN 16 1954

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 8 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI, OKLAHOMA CITY 7-8-54 11-20 AM CST

DIRECTOR AND SACS MINNEAPOLIS AND SAN FRANCISCO

DC  
URGENT

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL JULY EIGHT, FIFTY FOUR. ETHEL LAWRENCE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, CARDIN, OKLA., ADVISES LUELLA STANLEY, MOTHER OF EDNA MURRAY, IS SENILE AND MENTAL CONDITION IS POOR. LAWRENCE STATES HOWEVER, THAT SHE HERSELF CORRESPONDS WITH EDNA MURRAY, AND ADVISED THAT EDNA MURRAY IS NOW MARRIED TO [REDACTED] AND RESIDING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FOR INFO SF USA GEORGE MACKINNON, ST. PAUL, REQUESTED IMMEDIATE DETERMINATION OF EDNA MURRAY-S WHEREABOUTS FOR PURPOSE OF SUBPOENA. SF IMMEDIATELY VERIFY EDNA MURRAY-S PRESENT RESIDENCE AT ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE AND SUTEL MINNEAPOLIS.

END

SF ADVISED

A IN O PLS

WA 1-23 M PM OK F BI WA JG

MP OK FBI MP MJA

DISC PLS

M

68 JUL 13 1954

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 15

20 JUL 9 1954

365

①  
 rebid  
 (Refers 7-576)  
 -in hearing begun 7/7/54 all witnesses,  
 with exception of Volney Davis, who has testified  
 thus far, have refuted allegations made by Davis

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

6-Comm. H. J.

file note  
 6-



**KIDNAPER SEEKS FREEDOM**—St. Paul.—Slim, gray-haired Volney Davis, 52 (right), who received a life sentence in the 1935 kidnaping of Edward Bremer, St. Paul brewer, prepares to get into a car with United States Marshal Enard Erickson to return to prison after appearing in Federal Court in an attempt to gain his freedom. Davis claimed his constitutional rights were violated and that he traveled with the Barker-Karpis gang, but did not take part in the kidnaping. —AP Wirephoto.

7-576  
 NOT RECORDED  
 46 JUL 14 1954

- Wash. Post and Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. News \_\_\_\_\_
- Wash. Star A-1
- N. Y. Herald Tribune \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Y. Mirror \_\_\_\_\_
- Date July 8, 1954

7-576

4-568

5-10-54

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

29149

JUL 8 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

7/7/54

11-21 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI 7-576 AND SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY 2-URGENT

Bremer kidnapping  
BREKID.

RE MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL TO BUREAU JULY SIX LAST. HEARING FOR

VOLNEY DAVIS BEGAN AT TEN AM THIS DATE WITH HARLAN STRONG, COURT-  
APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS, AGREEING NOT TO CONTEST CHARGE  
NUMBER TWO IN DAVIS PETITION "WAS NEVER TAKEN BEFORE A USC." DEFENSE  
CALLED VOLNEY DAVIS AS FIRST WITNESS AND DAVIS REPEATED ALL CHARGES SET  
FORTH IN HIS PETITION. MELVIN H. PURVIS, FORMER SAC AT CHICAGO, CALLED  
BY DEFENSE AS SECOND WITNESS, AND RELATED DETAILS SURROUNDING APPREHEN-  
SION OF DAVIS AND TAKING OF WAIVER OF REMOVAL. NOTHING UNFAVORABLE  
TOWARD BUREAU IN TESTIMONY OF PURVIS. ONLY UNFAVORABLE ELEMENT AT  
HEARING TODAY DEVELOPED BY HARLAN STRONG WHO, IN QUESTIONING DAVIS  
CONCERNING BACKGROUND AND CAREER OF DAVIS IN CRIME, ALSO BROUGHT OUT  
ESCAPE OF DAVIS FROM FBI AGENTS ON FEBRUARY SEVEN, THIRTYFIVE, AT  
YORKVILLE, ILL., WHILE DAVIS WAS BEING TRANSPORTED IN CHARTERED AIR-  
PLANE FROM KANSAS CITY TO CHICAGO. DAVIS TESTIFIED IN THIS REGARD  
THAT TWO AGENTS, ONE OF WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS WALTER TRAINOR, AND  
ANOTHER AGENT WHOSE NAME HE DID NOT RECALL WHO WAS BELIEVED TO BE  
THOMAS E. STAKEM WERE TRANSPORTING DAVIS TO CHICAGO WHEN THEIR PLANE  
RAN INTO A SNOW STORM AND WITH ONLY TWENTY MINUTES- SUPPLY OF GASOLINE  
WERE FORCED TO MAKE A FORCED LANDING IN FIELD NEAR YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS.  
DAVIS TESTIFIED FURTHER THAT DURING THIS FLIGHT WHEN FORCED LANDING WAS  
EMINENT, HE ASKED THE OTHER AGENT, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS SCARED, AND WHO  
HAD NEVER FLOWN BEFORE, TO REMOVE HIS HANDCUFFS AND LEG IRONS  
BECAUSE OF  
THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRE IN EVEN OF A CRASH LANDING, AND DAVIS  
TESTIFIED THIS AGENT, WHOSE NAME HE WAS UNABLE TO RECALL, SAID "I CAN-T  
DO IT." DAVIS TESTIFIED FURTHER THAT AFTER A SUCCESSFUL FORCED LAND

G. I. R. -9

RECORDED - 90

7-576-15384

PAGE TWO

M. JOYCE, WHO SENTENCED DAVIS IN NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE, AS FIRST WITNESS  
JULY EIGHT, NEXT. GEORGE MAC KINNON, USA, ST. PAUL, HAS REQUESTED  
WINONA BURDETT, FORMER GIRLFRIEND OF HARRY CAMPBELL, ONE OF FORMER  
SUBJECTS IN INSTANT CASE, BE LOCATED IN ORDER THAT A SUBPOENA CAN BE  
ISSUED FOR HER APPEARANCE AT HEARING PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED FOR  
VOLNEY DAVIS AT ST. PAUL. FOR INFORMATION OF OKLAHOMA CITY, SUGGEST  
SA CLARENCE HURT, RA, MC ALESTER, OKLAHOMA, BE CONTACTED RE WHERE-  
- ABOUTS OF BURDETT. FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, USA DESIRES  
TESTIMONY OF BURDETT TO VERIFY ACTIVITIES OF VOLNEY DAVIS DURING  
NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR AND THIRTYFIVE. OKLAHOMA CITY SUTEL.

HOWARD

END ACK PLS

~~CORRECTION GROUP TWELVE LINE TWENTYTWO IS BECAUSE OF~~  
OKLAHOMA CITY TO BE ADVISED

ACK NOW PLS

1-34 AM OK FBI WA WS

TU DISC

CC: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AIRTEL

Transmit the following ~~Teletype~~ message to:

AIR MAIL

3:45 p.m.

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

7/6/54

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

*Bremer Kidnaping*  
BRLKID.

RE MINNEAPOLIS AIRTEL TO BUREAU 6/3/54. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, MINN., ADVISED HARLAN STRONG, COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR VOLNEY DAVIS, RECEIVED PERMISSION TO HAVE PSYCHIATRIST EXAMINE VOLNEY DAVIS IN RAMSEY COUNTY JAIL, ST. PAUL, MINN. DIM STATED THAT DR. LESLIE CAPLAN, MINNEAPOLIS PHYSICIAN AND PSYCHIATRIST, HAS EXAMINED VOLNEY DAVIS (GRATIS) AND THAT ACCORDING TO HARLAN STRONG, DR. CAPLAN WILL TESTIFY, ON BASIS OF HIS EXAMINATION OF VOLNEY DAVIS, THAT DAVIS WAS MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AT TIME OF HIS ARRAIGNMENT IN 6/35, TO WAIVE THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL ON THE BASIS OF DAVIS' EDUCATION, BACKGROUND AND PRIOR YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT. DIM STATED FURTHER CAPLAN WILL BE OUT OF THE CITY THE REMAINDER OF THIS WEEK AND WILL BE UNABLE TO TESTIFY IN DAVIS' DEFENSE UNTIL 7/12/54. DIM STATED HE HAS WIRED ALCATRAZ, LEAVENWORTH AND MCALESTER PRISONS FOR MEDICAL FILES ON DAVIS AND FOR NAMES OF PRISON PSYCHIATRISTS WHO HAVE EXAMINED DAVIS AND IS CONSIDERING CALLING THEM TO TESTIFY 7/12/54 TO REFUTE DR. CAPLAN'S TESTIMONY. ALEX DIM ADVISED THAT AFTER THE DEFENSE HAVE PUT ON THEIR CASE AT THE HEARING, WHICH WILL BE HELD AS SCHEDULED AT 10:00 A.M., 7/7/54

Mr. Rosen

SF:pw  
7-30

LA - 196

RECORDED - 63

11 JUL 7 1954

Sent W Per W

Approved: *CRK*

Special Agent in Charge

Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy  
*Connelley*

7-576-15385

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

-----

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE 2

AT ST. PAUL, MINN., DIM CONTEMPLATES CALLING MELVIN PURVIS AS  
FIRST WITNESS FOR THE GOVT. OTHER WITNESSES IN FOLLOWING ORDER  
FOR THE GOVT'S CASE: SURAN, CHAFFETZ, CASSIDY, HEADLEY, MARTIN,  
STEWART, KUHNAL, EARL WILLIAMS, HAROLD ANDERSEN, BRENNAN, HARDY,  
KLEES, JUDGE JOYCE, LYNCH, ECKLEY, HAZEL, PICHA, MAC KAY, GOLLOP,  
MORRISON, SHERIFF GIBBONS, RISEDORF, SCHWEITZ, ROBERT THOMPSON,  
DE COURCY, NORSTROM, REEDER, CARL M. TAYLOR, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERKS,  
CLERK OF COURT, SAN FRANCISCO, WITH FILES. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED  
OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

*CC M Rosen*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 10 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

7-10-54

7-35

DIRECTOR, FBI SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX AND SACS CLEVELAND AND KANSAS CITY

BREKID. USA GEORGE E. MAC KINNON, ST. PAUL, MINN., DESIRES WHEREABOUTS IMMEDIATELY DETERMINED FOR PURPOSE OF SUBPOENA OF BYRON BOLTON, WAS., BYRON BOLTON, CARTER, BOWEN D. CARTER, OWEN G. CARTER, ANDY ALLEN, MONTY CARTER, B. BOLTON. USA MAC KINNON DESIRES BOLTON- S TESTIMONY INASMUCH AS BOLTON PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED VOLNEY DAVIS WAS IN POSSESSION OF RANSOM MONEY. MINNEAPOLIS FILES REFLECT MOST SERIALS CONCERNING BOLTON HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO CLEVELAND DIVISION. BUREAU WILL CHECK CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR LATEST WHEREABOUTS OF BOLTON. CLEVELAND OFFICE REVIEW FILES FOR ANY INFO CONCERNING BOLTON- S WHEREABOUTS. KANSAS CITY WILL CHECK FILES FOR BOLTON- S WHEREABOUTS AND CHECK FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MO., WHERE BOLTON CONFINED AS TB PATIENT, FOR INFO LEADING TO HIS WHEREABOUTS. EXPEDITE LEADS AS BOLTON- S PRESENCE AS WITNESS DESIRED ST. PAUL, JULY TWELVE, NINETEEN FIFTYFOUR.

HOWARD

EN

CORRECTIONS

LINE THREE WORD FIVE SHOULD BE OWEN

LINE FIVE WORD ONE SHOULD BE BOLTON- S

E KANSAS CITY ADVISED

END AND ACK PLS

9-42 PM OK FBI WA RD

RECORDED-96

13 JUL 12 1954

Mr. Rosen EX-103

OK FBI CT SIC

IN DISC PERSON

7-576 15386

29151

JULY 11, 1954

TELETYPE  
URGENT

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

BREKID. REURTEL JULY TEN LAST. LATEST IDENT RECORD FOR  
BOLTON REFLECTS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH FBI NUMBER  
EIGHT FOUR ONE ONE EIGHT EIGHT.

HOOVER

WDC:rom

7-576-15386

RECORDED-66

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_

EX-103

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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JUL 11 1954

TELETYPE

8:26am

F-467

*Comm*  
*7/14/54*

*ABW*  
*gfy*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MINNEAPOLIS

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/13/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/7-9,12/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>SA SIGURD FLAATA jvr</b>
TITLE <b>VOLNEY DAVIS, was., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPPING</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Hearing afforded VOLNEY DAVIS on his petition in USDC, St. Paul, Minn., 7/7-12/54, before Judge GUNNAR NORDBYE, who after hearing testimony, took case under advisement, stating that he would render a written opinion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA</u></p> <p>A hearing was afforded VOLNEY DAVIS on his petition in United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, beginning July 7, 1954, and ending July 12, 1954, before Judge GUNNAR NORDBYE, pursuant to the ruling of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, St. Louis.</p> <p>After hearing testimony, Judge NORDBYE took the case under advisement, stating that he would render a written report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p><b>COPIES DESTROYED</b></p> <p><b>100 MAR 26 1965</b></p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>(3-Bureau (7-576) (AM) 1-USA, St. Paul 2-Minneapolis (7-30)</p> <p><b>COPY IN FILE</b></p> <p><b>JUL 20 1954</b></p>		<p><b>576-15387</b></p> <p><b>JUL 14 1954</b></p> <p><b>RECORDED - 87</b></p> <p><b>EX-115</b></p>	

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

16-50255-2

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEAD

MINNEAPOLIS DIVISION

At St. Paul, Minnesota

Will follow and report the opinion to be handed down by Judge NORDBYE in this case.

REFERENCE

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, at Minneapolis, 4/23/54.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 9 1954

TELETYPE

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

7-9-54

8-34 PM BDM

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Rm.  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL JULY EIGHT LAST. FOLLOWING WITNESSES CALLED BY GOVERNMENT TO TESTIFY IN VOLNEY DAVIS HEARING AT ST. PAUL TODAY: ECKLEY, LYNCH, STEWART, KUHNEL, KLEES, HEISEY, HAROLD ANDERSEN, HARDY, GIBBONS, RISEDORPH, MRS. VIRGINIA SCHWEITZ, DECOURCY, PICHA, NORSTROM, REEDER, MORRISON, MACKAY, GOLLOP. ANDERSEN TESTIFIED RE MEETING DAVIS ON ARRIVAL MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT MORNING JUNE THREE, THIRTYFIVE, AND TRANSPORTATION OF DAVIS TO ST. PAUL BUREAU OFFICE. ANDERSON TESTIFIED FURTHER THAT ON ARRIVAL AT OFFICE IN FEDERAL COURTS BUILDING, THAT FOR REASON OF LACK OF DETENTION ROOM FACILITIES IN BUREAU OFFICE, AND KNOWING OF DAVIS-S PRIOR ESCAPE FROM BUREAU AGENTS IN FEBRUARY, THIRTYFIVE, HE PERSONALLY ATTACHED TRAVELING CHAIN TO RADIATOR PIPE FROM DAVIS LEG IRONS AND TOLD DAVIS "NOW VOLNEY, IF YOU WANT TO GO OUT THE WINDOW, YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE RADIATOR WITH YOU." IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DEFENSE COUNSEL NO PARTICULAR ISSUE OF CHAINING OF DAVIS IN CROSS EXAMINATION OF ANDERSEN AND OVER OBJECTIONS OF COURT APPOINTED DEFENSE COUNSEL. ANDERSEN WAS PERMITTED TO TELL WHAT HE HAD HEARD ABOUT DAVIS- ESCAPE FROM FEDERAL AGENTS IN FEBRUARY, THIRTYFIVE. ANDERSEN TESTIFIED THAT DAVIS WAS IN CUSTODY OF TWO AGENTS, ONE A VETERAN, AND THE OTHER AN INEXPERIENCED AGENT, WHO WERE TAKING DAVIS BY PRIVATE PLANE WITH A SINGLE PILOT FROM KANSAS CITY TO CHICAGO AND THAT WHEN THE PLANE WAS FORCED DOWN BY WEATHER NEAR YORKVILLE, ILL., THE INEXPERIENCED AGENT MISUNDERSTOOD THE VETERAN AGENT-S INSTRUCTIONS AND REMOVED DAVIS-LEG IRONS, BUT ALSO HIS HANDCUFFS, AND THAT THE THREE THEN WENT TO A TAVERN

END PAGE ONE

Mr. Rosen

61 JUL 23 1954

F-467

RECORDED-80

EX-123

PERS. FILES

Set me have memo  
re this escape in 1935.  
H.

Wm. Rosen  
1/12/54  
mrc

PAGE TWO

WHERE THE OLDER AGENT WENT TO A PHONE BOOTH AND DAVIS INVITED THE IN-  
EXPERIENCED AGENT TO GO TO THE BAR FOR A BEER AND THAT AS THE BEER WAS  
SERVED THEM DAVIS ~~WENT~~ ESCAPED BY THROWING THE GLASS AND CONTENTS INTO  
THE INEXPERIENCED AGENT-S FACE AND ESCAPING. JOHN DECOURCY, LOCAL  
ST. PAUL ATTORNEY, REPUTED TO HAVE BEEN ATTORNEY FOR DOC BARKER AND  
EDNA MURRAY WAS ADVERSE WITNESS AND UNABLE TO RECALL MAKING AFFIDAVIT  
RE <sup>✓</sup>BOLNEY DAVIS IN NINETEEN FORTY. IT WAS NECESSARY TO CROSS EXAMINE  
DECOURCY AS AN ADVERSE WITNESS AFTER AUSA CLAIMS SURPRISE IN DECOURCY-S  
TESTIMONY, AFTER WHICH DECOURCY THEN ADMITTED SEEING DAVIS IN RAMSEY  
COUNTY JAIL AT WHICH TIME DECOURCY WAS REPRESENTING EDNA MURRAY AND WAS  
SEEKING TITLE OF PONTIAC AUTOMOBILE WHICH BELONGED TO DAVIS. ALL OTHER  
WITNESSES FAVORABLE TO GOVERNMENT CASE. AUSA HAS ADVISED DR. SETTLE, CHIEF  
PHYSICIAN, USP, LEAVENWORTH, WILL TESTIFY AT HEARING TO BE RECONVENED AT  
ST. PAUL, ELEVEN AM, JULY TWELVE NEXT, TO REFUTE TESTIMONY OF DR. LESLIE  
CAPLAN, MINNEAPOLIS PSYCHIATRIST WHO IS BEING CALLED BY DAVIS. GOVERNMENT  
HAS RESERVED RIGHT TO CROSS EXAMINE DAVIS FURTHER AND COMPLETE THE GOVER-  
MENT-S CASE AFTER THE DEFENSE RESTS AND THE RIGHT TO CALL OTHER WITNESSES  
TO COMPLETE THE GOVERNMENT-S CASE. ONLY WITNESSES NOT CALLED BY GOVERN-  
MENT TODAY AS LISTED IN PREVIOUS TELETYPE WERE RONALD HAZEL, ST. PAUL  
ATTORNEY, AND CARL M. TAYLOR, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK, SAN FRANCISCO, WHOM  
END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE

AUSA DECIDED NOT TO PUT ON THE STAND, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT MADE USE OF FILES BROUGHT BY TAYLOR FROM SAN FRANCISCO. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

HOWARD

END AND ACK PLS HOLD  
MCCORRECTIONS -

~~LINE FOUR FOURTH WORD SHOULD BE VIRGINIA PAGE ONE~~  
~~LINE SEVEN SECOND WORD SHOULD BE VOLNEY PAGE TWO~~  
~~LINE TWELVE LAST WORD SHOULD BE CHIEF~~

END AND ACK

K

10-49 PM OK FBI WA WS

.7 DISC PLS

CC: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: July 12, 1951

FROM : Mr. Price

SUBJECT: VOLNEY DAVIS, ET AL;  
EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
KIDNAPING

Tolson	✓
Ladd	✓
Nichols	✓
Belmont	✓
Clegg	✓
Glavin	✓
Harbo	✓
Rosen	✓
Tracy	✓
Gearty	✓
Mohr	✓
Winterrowd	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holloman	✓
Simms	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

This memorandum is in response to the Director's inquiry relative to the escape of Volney Davis from Bureau Agents at Yorkville, Illinois, on February 6, 1935.

Volney Davis was apprehended at Kansas City, Missouri, on February 6, 1935, as a subject in the Bremer kidnaping case by five Special Agents of the Bureau. On this same date, Davis executed a waiver of removal and an airplane was chartered for the purpose of conveying him to Chicago, Illinois, where better facilities were available for questioning. The plane which was chartered had facilities for three passengers besides the pilot, and Special Agents Walter F. Trainor and Thomas E. Stakem, Jr., were designated to accompany Davis.

The plane was forced down at 6:45 p.m. in a cornfield one mile south of Yorkville, Illinois. A farmer was contacted and requested to drive the Agents with their prisoner to Yorkville. To prevent attracting attention and disclosing the identity of the prisoner, his leg irons and handcuffs were removed. Upon their arrival in Yorkville, the two Agents and the prisoner entered the Hotel Nading Cafe. Trainor entered a phone booth in order to call the Chicago Office while Stakem remained with the prisoner in the cafe. Stakem and Davis each ordered a glass of beer. After it was served to them and while Trainor was still in the telephone booth, Davis struck Stakem in the face with his fist and effected his escape by jumping through a window. Stakem fired two shots at the fleeing Davis, but the bullets did not strike him.

Davis made his way out of Yorkville by stealing an automobile off the street.

For his part in permitting Davis to escape, Stakem was requested to submit his resignation which was accepted as of February 26, 1935. Trainor was suspended without pay for a period of 90 days beginning on February 8, 1935. Because of his good attitude, displayed during the period of his suspension, he was restored to duty on March 18, 1935.

b6  
MTG

JUL 24 1951

F-467

PERS. FILES

Volney Davis was again apprehended by Bureau Agents on June 1, 1935, at Chicago, Illinois. In United States District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, Davis was sentenced to life imprisonment on June 7, 1935, after entering a plea of guilty for his complicity in the Bremer kidnaping. It is noted that a hearing is currently being held in St. Paul in connection with a petition for a writ of habeas corpus that Davis has filed in Federal court in which he seeks to have the life sentence set aside in favor of a sentence involving a term of years.

*True  
GHW  
ene*

*V.*

*gpa*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 29152  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 8 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO 7-8-54 4-48 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, MINNEAPOLIS URGENT

BREKID RE OC TEL TODAY. RESIDENCE OF EDNA MURRAY, NOW [REDACTED]

b7c [REDACTED] VERIFIED AS [REDACTED]

RUC.

WHELAN

END AND ACK PLS

OKWV<sup>5</sup>88

OK FBI MP DEN

7-50 OK FBI WA PC

Mr. Rosen

5 5 JUL 16 1954

RECORDED-89

X-127

13 JUL 12 1954

7-576-15390

F-467

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 8 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI, OKLAHOMA CITY 7-8-54 2-43 PM CST

DIRECTOR AND SAC, MINNEAPOLIS URGENT

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL JULY SEVEN LAST AND OCTEL EARLIER  
TODAY. SA CLARENCE O. HURT, RA, MCALESTER, OKLA., DOES NOT  
KNOW PRESENT WHEREABOUTS WYNONA BURDETT AND IS UNABLE TO  
SECURE INFO IN MCALESTER RE HER WHEREABOUTS. CONTACTS MADE  
WITH NELLIE KIMES, MCALESTER, AND AUSTIN SMITH AND LOUIS  
MOHLER, INMATES OSP, MCALESTER, WHO ALL ADVISED THEY ARE  
ACQUAINTED WITH VOLNEY DAVIS AND REMEMBER HE LIVED WITH WYNONA  
BURDETT, BUT NONE OF THEM HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO WHERE WYNONA  
BURDETT IS AT THIS TIME. RECORDS OKLA. STATE CRIME BUREAU ALSO  
CHECKED RE BURDETT WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. RUC.

JOHNSON

END

A IN O PLS

WA

O FBI MP DPMO

WA 4-45 PM OK FBI WA RD

Mr. Rosen

EX-115

RECORDED - 51

13 JUL 12 1954

JUL 21 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 8 1954

TELETYPE

7-8-54

8:39

PM

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, SAN FRANCISCO

URGENT

Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

BREKID. BUR FILE SEVEN DASH FIVE SEVEN SIX. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL TO DIRECTOR JULY SEVEN LAST AND RE SF TEL JULY EIGHT. FOLLOWING WITNESSES CALLED BY DEFENSE AT VOLNEY DAVIS HEARING, ST. PAUL, TODAY - SURAN, CHAFFETZ, MARTIN, CASSIDY, HEADLEY, EARL WILLIAMS, BRENNAN. FOLLOWING WITNESSES CALLED BY GOVERNMENT TODAY - JUDGE MATTHEW JOYCE, ROBERT THOMPSON, ECKLEY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED ALL WITNESSES WITH EXCEPTION OF VOLNEY DAVIS, WHO HAVE TESTIFIED THUS FAR, HAVE REFUTED ALLEGATIONS MADE BY DAVIS. DEFENSE HAS COMPLETED PRESENTATION OF CASE WITH EXCEPT- OF TESTIMONY OF DR. LESLIE CAPLAN, MINNEAPOLIS PHYSICIAN AND PSYCHIATRIST, WHO WILL TESTIFY FOR DEFENSE ON JULY TWELVE NEXT. USA CONTEMPLATE REFUTING DR. CAPLAN-S TESTIMONY WITH TESTIMONY OF PSYCHIATRIST FROM USP, LEAVENWORTH, FOR WHOM SUBPOENA HAS BEEN ISSUED TO APPEAR ALSO JULY TWELVE. FOR INFORMATION SAN FRANCISCO, USA, ST. PAUL, EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO HAVE [REDACTED] - EDNA MURRAY- AVAILABLE TO TESTIFY JULY TWELVE RE ACTIVITIES OF VOLNEY DAVIS IN NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR AND THIRTYFIVE. SUGGEST SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION FOLLOW THIS MATTER WITH USM, SF, AND SUTEL WHEN SUBPOENA SERVED ON [REDACTED]

HOWARD

SF TO BE ADVISED

END AND ACK PLS

10-45 OK FBI WA PC

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 51

13 JUL 12 1954

MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

THU DISV 1954

RECORDED - 51  
EX-115

URGENT  
JULY 8, 1954

SAC  
MINNEAPOLIS

G.I.R.-9

7-576-15373

BREKID. REURTEL EIGHTH INSTANT. IDENTIFICATION FILES REFLECT

[REDACTED]

HOOVER

TELETYPE

MLB

*mlb*

*Quinn T. 4716*

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Boardman \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_
- Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

15. WDC 1 8 70  
1954

158-358 TELETYPE  
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189 MAR 26 1965

*V. R. B.* *Q.T.*

*31 P*

*ack.*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 8 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

7-8-54

1- WT 1-25 AM

DIRECTOR FBI 7-576 AND SAC OKLAHOMA CITY URGENT

**BREKID.** USA GEORGE MAC KINNON ST. PAUL DESIRES WHEREABOUTS IMMEDIATELY DETERMINED FOR PURPOSE OF SUBPOENA OF EDNA MURRAY WITH ALIASES - MRS. E. V. DAVIS, EDNA STANLEY, WELMA TIPPETTS, VELMA CHAMPAIGN, RABBIT, G. R. HANSON, GRACE R. DOYLE, EDNA SULLIVAN, DORIS FARRELL, EDNA GRACE, GRACE R. HANSEN, MRS. E. J. SNYDER, EDNA PRICE, MRS. CURLY HANSON, EDNA STANLEY, MRS. G. L. HARPER, MARTHA MURRAY, VELMA TIPPITTS, BLONDIE, GRACE HANSON, RABBITS, MRS. E. J. POWELL. MINNEAPOLIS FILES REFLECT EDNA MURRAY-S IDENTIFICATION NUMBER TO BE NINE THREE NINE SEVEN. AT TIME OF KARPIS TRIAL MURRAY BROUGHT FROM MISSOURI PENITENTIARY WHERE SHE WAS SERVING TWENTY YEARS SENTENCE FOR HIGHWAY ROBBERY. IDENTIFICATION RECORDS SHOULD BE CHECKED FOR HER LATEST WHEREABOUTS. MINNEAPOLIS FILES REFLECT MURRAY WAS DAUGHTER OF LUELLA STANLEY RESIDING AT CARDIN, OKLAHOMA IN NINETEEN THIRTY FOUR.

OKLAHOMA

CITY EXPEDITE LEADS TO DETERMINE MURRAY-S WHEREABOUTS AND SUTEL.

HOWARD

END AND ACK PLS

WA 3-29 AM OK FBI WA WS

OC OK FBI OC DCM

Mr. Rosen

TU DISC

cc-Mr. Rosen

EX-115

RECORDED - 51

Called Ident

13 JUL 12 1954

M 11:21:33 3-334

By

*Handwritten notes:*  
7-576-15543  
Dined  
One - 1/2 ml



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 9 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI, SAN FRANCISCO 7-9-54 2-50 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI SAN SAC, MINNEAPOLIS URGENT

BREKID. RE MINNEAPOLIS TEL JUL. EIGHT LAST. USM, SF SERVED

SUBPOENA ON [REDACTED] AKA. EDNA MURRAY THIS AM.

WHELAN

END AND ACK PLS

WA 5-52PM OK FBI WA JN

MP OK FBI MP JAF

TU DISC

Mr. Rosen

58 JUL 21 1954

RECORDED - 4 12 JUL 13 1954

EX-115

cc Rosen [signature]

G. I. R. -9.

29153

PRR 7/19/54

July 19, 1954

INDEXED - 60

RECORDED - 60

7-316-15395

EX-127

Mr. Maxwell Chaffetz  
Sales Manager  
Prest-L Products Corporation  
1436-38 Cotton Street  
Reading, Pennsylvania

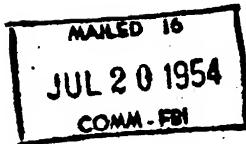
Dear Mr. Chaffetz,

It was indeed a pleasure to receive your letter of July 12, 1954, concerning the case of Volney Davis.

You were most thoughtful to inform me of your favorable opinion of the work of Special Agent Sigurd Flaata in this matter, and I know that Mr. Flaata will be deeply grateful for your generous comments. Such heartening remarks have always been a source of great encouragement for my associates and me.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



JUL 19 5 12 PM '54  
RECEIVED READING ROOM  
FBI

2 cc's - Minneapolis, with 2 copies of incoming.

cc - Personnel File of SA Sigurd Flaata, with copy of incoming.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Sigurd Flaata EOD 7-5-48, was assigned to Minneapolis as Resident Agent in St. Paul. Mr. Chaffetz eod as Clerk 2-10-30; as Agent 2-12-34. Resigned 4-19-46. Service satisfactory.

MLL:grs

AUG 2 1954

F-467

Viper

Jan

MLL

Pretz-L Products Corp.

2915

BIT SIZE

PRETZ-L NUGGETS

NO CRUMBS



1436-38 COTTON STREET

July 12, 1954

Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Phone	25259
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
9th & Pennsylvania Aves.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I was recently under subpoena in St. Paul, Minnesota in the matter involving Volney Davis. I believe I would be remiss if I did not bring to your attention the excellent job performed by Special Agent Sig Flaata of the Minnesota office to whom the matter was assigned at the time of the hearing.

Agent Flaata had a complete and thorough knowledge of all matters pertaining to the case which, as you know, is quite involved. He was most cooperative and of great assistance in making available everything needed both by Special Agents Ex-Special Agents and members of the office of the U. S. Attorney:

Since this was my first contact with Agent Flaata, I was very much impressed and thought that you would appreciate knowing of his capability. With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

PRETZ-L PRODUCTS CORP.

*Maxwell Chaffetz*  
Maxwell Chaffetz,  
Sales Manager

MC:m

INDEXED - 80

RECORDED - 80  
EX-127

7-576 -

13 JUL 26 1954

PERG. FILES

*me  
ack 7-19-54  
mce*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 12 1954

TELETYPE

G.I.R. 9

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Sizoo	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

7-12-54

8-35 PM

DIRECTOR, FBI

U R G E N T

*Emergency Kidnaping*  
**BREKID**

RE MINNEAPOLIS TELETYPE JULY NINE LAST.

SA

ERNEST KUNNEL, FIRST WITNESS FOR GOVERNMENT AT VOLNEY DAVIS HEARING TODAY, ADDING TO TESTIMONY PREVIOUSLY GIVEN AND TESTIFYING RELATIVE TO TRANSPORTATION OF DAVIS FROM CHICAGO TO MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE THREE, NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE, TESTIFIED THAT DAVIS OBTAINED REST AND WAS OBSERVED SLEEPING ON PLANE ENROUTE. DEFENSE PUT DR. LESLIE CAPLAN, MINNEAPOLIS PHYSICIAN AND PSYCHIATRIST, ON STAND AND DR. CAPLAN TESTIFIED THAT SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ALLEGED IN HYPOTHETICAL CASE CONCERNING DAVIS FROM CHILDHOOD DAYS TO TIME OF ARRAIGNMENT IN ST. PAUL, JUNE THREE, NINETEEN THIRTY FIVE, INCLUDING INCIDENTS OF DAVIS-S CRIMINAL CAREER, INCARCERATION IN VARIOUS PRISONS, INCLUDING LONG PERIODS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, AND OTHER EVENTS IN DAVIS-S CAREER TO WHICH CAPLAN TESTIFIED THAT FACTS, IF TRUE, SUBJECTED DAVIS TO HARROWING EXPERIENCES WHICH MAY HAVE AFFECTED HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO WAIVER OF COUNSEL AND HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO ENTERING A PLEA AT TIME OF ARRAIGNMENT ON JUNE THREE, NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE. ON CROSS EXAMINATION OF DR. CAPLAN, ADMISSION MADE BY CAPLAN TO COURT THAT DAVIS-S VARIOUS EXPERIENCES IN AIRPLANE TRIPS WITH FBI MAY NOT HAVE RESULTED IN ANY EFFECT

F910

END PAGE ONE

66 SEP 2 1955

RECORDED-48

13 JUL 15 1954

Mr. Rosen 5-5 JUL 20 1954 EX - 107

PAGE TWO

ON HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO WAIVING RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO ENTERING A PLEA. GOVERNMENT ALSO EMPHASIZED IN CROSS EXAMINATION OF DOCTOR CAPLAN THAT DAVIS-S EXTENSIVE CRIMINAL RECORD AFFORDED DAVIS BACKGROUND AND KNOWLEDGE OF COURT PROCEDURE AND KNOWLEDGE OF HIS RIGHT TO COUNSEL AND KNOWLEDGE OF RESULTS OF ENTERING A PLEA OF GUILTY. DOCTOR RUSSELL O. SETTLE, PHYSICIAN AND PSYCHIATRIST, U.S.P. LEAVENWORTH, TESTIFIED FOR GOVERNMENT THAT MEDICAL FILE OF VOLNEY DAVIS FROM U.S.P. LEAVENWORTH FAILED TO REFLECT ANY EVIDENCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS OR PSYCHOTIC TRENDS. DOCTOR SETTLE ADVISED THAT A LETTER WRITTEN BY VOLNEY DAVIS DATED JUNE THREE, NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE, FROM THE RAMSEY COUNTY JAIL, SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA, ADDRESSED QUOTE MY DEAR MOTHER, FATHER, AND SISTERS UNQUOTE, WHICH IS SET FORTH IN DETAIL FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU ON PAGE SEVENTY SIX OF THE REPORT OF SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED FEBRUARY TWELVE FIFTY FOUR AT MINNEAPOLIS, WAS WRITTEN BY A PERSON OF MATURE JUDGEMENT WITH NO HINT OF IRRATIONALITY AND THAT THE PERSON EXPRESSED HIMSELF WELL AND WAS ALSO WELL SATISFIED WITH THE DECISIONS WHICH THE PERSON HAD MADE FOR HIMSELF AS SET FORTH IN THIS LETTER TO HIS RELATIVES. VOLNEY DAVIS AGAIN TOOK THE STAND FOR CROSS EXAMINATION BY THE GOVERNMENT, AND USA GEORGE MAC KINNON PURSUED QUESTIONS OF DAVIS-S ASSOCIATION WITH THE BARKER-KARPIS GANG FROM PERIOD PRIOR TO KIDNAPPING OF EDWARD BREMER ON JANUARY SEVENTEEN, THIRTYFOUR, TO

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

PERIOD AFTER BREMER-S RELEASE ON FEBRUARY SEVEN, THIRTYFOUR. IT SHOULD BE NOTED DAVIS APPEALED TO JUDGE NORDBYE RELATIVE TO QUESTION OF BEING TRIED FOR KIDNAPPING AT THE PRESENT HEARING. HOWEVER, THE COURT RULED THAT THE DEFENSE HAD BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF DAVIS-S GUILT IN THE BREMER CASE AND THAT DAVIS, WHEN QUESTIONED SPECIFICALLY BY THE DEFENSE, HAD DENIED ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE KIDNAPPING. DAVIS AGAIN SPECIFICALLY DENIED ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE KIDNAPPING OR THE RECEIPT OF ANY PORTION OF THE KIDNAPPING MONEY. EDNA MURRAY, TRUE NAME [REDACTED] b7c [REDACTED] A FORMER GIRL FRIEND OF VOLNEY DAVIS, TESTIFIED CONCERNING HER RELATIONS WITH VOLNEY DAVIS AND TESTIFIED THAT DAVIS TOLD HER THAT THE MONEY HE RECEIVED WAS FROM THE BREMER RANSOM MONEY. MURRAY TESTIFIED THAT SHE MADE TRIP TO NEW YORK STATE FROM TOLEDO, OHIO, AFTER RANSOM PAYOFF AND THAT BREMER RANSOM CURRENCY WAS EXCHANGED FOR WRITTEN CURRENCY BY BOTH SHE AND DAVIS JUST PRIOR TO TRIP TO GLASGOW, MONTANA, IN SEPTEMBER,, NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND DEFENSE RESTED, AND IN PRESENTING CLOSING ARGUMENTS FOR THE DEFENSE, HARLAN STRONG, COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY FOR DAVIS, STATED THAT WHEN HE WAS FIRST ASKED TO TAKE THE CASE FOR DAVIS, HE HESITATED TO ACCEPT BECAUSE HE FELT THAT THERE WAS AN UNWARRANTED ATTACK BY DAVIS ON THE FBI. STRONG STATED THAT IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DEFENSE CLAIMED NO

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR .

CHARGES HAD BEEN MADE BY DAVIS THAT HE WAS BEATEN OR PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY THE FBI AND STRONG POINTED OUT THAT UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO THE EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY DURING THE EARLY NINETEEN THIRTIES, THE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS TAKEN BY THE FBI RELATIVE TO DAVIS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY NECESSARY-- NEVERTHELESS, STRONG STATED THAT THE TREATMENT RECEIVED BY DAVIS COULD HAVE AFFECTED HIS JUDGEMENT AS TO HIS WAIVER OF COUNSEL AND PLEA.

AUSA ALEX DIM PRESENTED CLOSING SUMMARY FOR GOVERNMENT AND RESTED CASE. JUDGE GUNNAR NORDBYE ADVISED THAT HE WAS TAKING THE CASE UNDER ADVISEMENT AND WOULD RENDER WRITTEN OPINION. BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED OF RESULTS OF COURT ACTION.

HOWARD

END AND ACK PLS

10-52 PM OK FBI WA RD

CC: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO  
INITIALS AND NUMBER

GEN:EM

United States Department of Justice

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
221 FEDERAL COURTS BUILDING  
ST. PAUL 2, MINNESOTA

July 14, 1954

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We have just finished a trial in the nature of  
habeas corpus, which involved one Volney Davis and his  
participation in the Bremer Kidnapping of January 17, 1934.

The attempt to reconstruct events which happened  
20 years ago afforded us considerable difficulty, but I was  
impressed by the efficiency of the Federal Bureau of Inves-  
tigation and the willing cooperation we received from Mr.  
B. Howard, Special Agent in Charge, in handling the problem  
and particularly with respect to the most difficult problem  
of locating the witness Edna Murray. She was located on  
very short notice and we were able to have her produced in  
court to the advantage of the Government.

Respectfully yours,

*George E. MacKinnon*  
GEORGE E. MacKINNON  
United States Attorney

EXP. PROC.  
JUL 16 1954

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disseminated for SAE Howard's  
personnel file. 6-1-54  
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EX-130

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RECEIVED FILES



July 19, 1954

RECORDED-117 7-576-15376

G.I.R. 27

EX-130

Honorable George E. MacKinnon  
United States Attorney  
District of Minnesota  
221 Federal Courts Building  
St. Paul 2, Minnesota

My dear Mr. MacKinnon:

Thank you very much for your letter  
of July 14, 1954, concerning the case of Volney  
Davis.

It was most thoughtful of you to write  
me in this regard and to advise me of your favor-  
able opinion of the work of Mr. C. B. Howard and  
my other associates in our Minneapolis Office. I  
know that they will deeply appreciate your generous  
comments, and you may be sure that it is a pleasure  
to cooperate with you whenever possible.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Minneapolis, with copy of incoming.

cc - (with copy of incoming) Personnel File of C. B. Howard.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

53 AUG 6 1954

MAILED 16  
JUL 20 1954  
COMM-FBI

53 JUL 18 1954

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-46542-63

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **MINNEAPOLIS**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>MINNEAPOLIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/11/54</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/11/54</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>SIGURD FLAATA</b> <span style="float: right;">MM</span>
TITLE <b>VOLNEY DAVIS, was., ET AL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>KIDNAPPING G. I. R. - 7</b>
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Honorable GUNNAR H. NORDBYE, Chief Judge, USDC, Minneapolis, issued court order 8/11/54 denying VOLNEY DAVIS' motion for an order vacating and setting aside his life sentence on kidnapping charge. Photostatic copy of court's opinion furnished Bureau as enclosure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- C -</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA</u></p> <p>On August 11, 1954, Mr. GEORGE E. MacKINNON, United States Attorney, and Mr. ALEX DIM, Assistant United States Attorney, both advised the writer that the Honorable GUNNAR H. NORDBYE, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Minneapolis, had on the same date issued a court order denying VOLNEY DAVIS' motion for an order vacating and setting aside life sentence imposed upon him on June 7, 1935, upon a plea of guilty entered on June 3, 1935, to an indictment charging that he conspired with others to, and did, kidnap one EDWARD GEORGE BREMER of St. Paul, Minnesota, and transport him to the State of Illinois. Mr. MacKINNON furnished the writer with two copies of the court order which was set forth in a fourteen-page opinion, and one copy of same is being furnished as an enclosure with this report to the Bureau and one copy is being retained in the files of the Minneapolis Division.</p> <p>ENCLOSURE TO THE BUREAU: 1 photostatic copy of 14 page opinion re subject VOLNEY DAVIS.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- C -</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED <b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> <b>MAR 26 1965</b>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <b>DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</b>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 2 - Bureau (Encl. 1) (AM) 1 - USA, St. Paul 1 - Minneapolis (7-30) <b>376</b> <b>AUG 26 1954</b>		<b>7-1576-15397</b> <b>RECORDED-1</b> <b>EX-121</b> <b>16 AUG 12 1954</b> <i>[Handwritten signatures and initials]</i>	

PROPERTY OF FBI—THIS CONFIDENTIAL REPORT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE LOANED TO YOU BY THE FBI AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE OF AGENCY TO WHICH LOANED.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE

Report of SA SIGURD FLAATA, Minneapolis, dated 7/13/54.

7-576-15387

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA  
THIRD DIVISION

No. 6096 Cr.

Volney Davis,

Petitioner,

vs.

United States of America,

Respondent.

ORDER

This matter comes before the undersigned, one of the Judges of the above-named Court, upon petitioner's motion for an order vacating and setting aside a life sentence imposed upon him on June 7, 1935, upon a plea of guilty entered on June 3, 1935, to an indictment charging that he conspired with others to, and did, kidnap one Edward George Bremer, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and transport him into the State of Illinois. The hearing commenced on July 7, 1936, and was concluded on July 12, 1936.

Mr. Marian B. Strong, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Mr. Howard H. Galt, of St. Paul, Minnesota, were appointed by the Court to represent petitioner and appeared in his behalf;

Mr. George B. MacKinnon, United States Attorney, and Mr. Alex Din, Assistant United States Attorney, both of St. Paul, Minnesota, appeared in behalf of the United States of America.

The proceedings are instituted under Section 2255, Title 28, U.S.C.A. Petitioner contends that he was sentenced without the advice of counsel; that he did not know of his right to counsel; that he did not waive counsel; that he was led to believe that if he entered a plea of guilty he would be given a term of years; that he was not taken before a United States Commissioner; that he was not given a copy of the indictment; and that he was held incommunicado. The trial court who sentenced Davis denied the motion without a hearing. An appeal was taken and in *Davis v. United States*, 316 F. 2d 118, the Court of Appeals held that, while the files and records sustained the trial court's finding that petitioner stated that he did not desire the advice of counsel at the time of his plea, that there was no requirement on the date of the arraignment and plea that he be furnished with a copy of the indictment, and that it was not necessary that he be taken before a United States Commissioner when he was arrested pursuant to a Grand Jury indictment, nevertheless, the allegations in the petition that he did not know of his constitutional right to counsel and that, not knowing of that right, did not voluntarily waive it by entering a plea of guilty, and in that the record did not conclusively show that defendant was entitled to no relief on his allegations that he had been deprived of counsel, he should not be deprived of his right to a hearing on his motion to vacate his sentence. The complaint that he had been held incommunicado was held by the Court of Appeals to be incidental to his claim that he did not know of his right to counsel and that he did not waive that right. The Court of Appeals thereupon reversed the order of the trial court and remanded the matter for further proceedings.

After the mandate had been returned by the Court of Appeals, petitioner was removed from the place of his incarceration to St. Paul a substantial period prior to July 7, 1950, when the hearing was held, so as to arrange for the



appointment of counsel and to enable counsel thus appointed adequate time to prepare for the hearing. The right to subpoena witnesses at the expense of the Government was accorded petitioner and all the witnesses he desired to call and who could be located were made available to him.

It appears from the evidence that petitioner is now 32 years of age; that in 1935 he had schooling equivalent to a sixth grade education; that when he was 17 years of age he was sentenced and served a term in the Oklahoma Penitentiary for a felony; that in February, 1923, when he was 21 years of age, he was tried before a jury, found guilty of murder, and sentenced to the Oklahoma Penitentiary for life. At that trial, he was represented by counsel. He was confined in the Oklahoma Penitentiary until November 9, 1932, at which time he was granted an eight months' leave of absence by the Governor of that State. During the time he was incarcerated, he was in solitary confinement for a substantial period by reason of one escape and one attempted escape from the penitentiary. Subsequently, his eight months' leave was extended twelve months, but after that extended stay expired, he deliberately failed to return to the penitentiary and became a fugitive. During this furlough from prison, he became associated with the notorious Barker-Karpis gang, some of whose members, among other crimes, committed the kidnapping of Edward Bremer at St. Paul. Bremer was kidnapped on January 17, 1934, and transported to Bensenville, Illinois. He was held for \$200,000 ransom, and when the ransom was paid, he was released. On January 22, 1935, two indictments were returned by the Grand Jury of the District of Minnesota -- one charging Arthur Karpis, Arthur Barker, Volney Davis, and many others, with the crime of conspiracy to kidnap Bremer at St. Paul and transport him to Illinois, and the other charging certain defendants, including Davis, with the substantive offense of kidnapping Bremer. In February, 1935, Davis was captured by agents of the F.B.I. at Kansas City, but made his escape.

when the airplane in which he was being transported to Chicago became grounded. On April 15, 1935, Arthur E. Barker and several other defendants named in the conspiracy indictment were placed on trial at St. Paul, Minnesota. On May 17, 1935, Barker and several other defendants were found guilty. Barker and one Oliver A. Berg were sentenced to life imprisonment. Davis was arrested again on June 1, 1935, by the F.B.I. at Chicago. Upon his arrest, he was taken to the F.B.I. headquarters at 1906 Bankers Building in that city, where he was questioned and where he made a written statement to F.B.I. agents Moran and Chaffetz setting forth his association with the Barker-Karpis gang; that he was living in St. Paul and associated with them at the time of the Bremer abduction; that he left St. Paul on or about January 18 or 19, 1934, and went to Chicago; that he continued to remain with the Barkers, receiving money from them off and on thereafter; that after the kidnapping, he, as well as Arthur Barker and others, were operated on by one Dr. Moran to remove the fingerprint patterns from their fingers and to change their facial expressions by operations on their noses and ears. He denied in the statement any participation in or connection with the Bremer kidnapping or that he had knowingly received any of the Bremer ransom money.

In support of his petition herein, he states that when he was arrested in Chicago on June 1st, he was struck on the head by a gun or some blunt instrument and that a gun was discharged dangerously near to his head when he was ordered to put up his hands. He contends that, by reason of this experience, he became frightened and unnerved. It is his position that he was held incommunicado by the F.B.I. after his arrest; that he was questioned during the afternoon of June 1, 1935, and until late that night; that he was not given any food or permitted to call a lawyer; and that he was told by the representatives of the F.B.I. that he did not need a lawyer in that they were all lawyers and

would look after his rights. He states that while he was in the F.B.I. headquarters in Chicago he was held a prisoner in a small room, handcuffed and shackled, and obtained very little, if any, sleep. He states that he was removed from Chicago on a chartered plane en route to St. Paul some time during the afternoon of June 2nd, but that turbulent weather was encountered near Madison, Wisconsin, so that the plane was forced to land; that thereafter two attempts were made to take off from Madison for St. Paul, but the stormy weather required the pilot to return to Madison. It is his testimony that this harrowing experience unnerved him and when on the third attempt the plane was able to proceed to St. Paul, he was exhausted mentally and physically; that he had had no sleep and no food until he arrived in St. Paul early Monday morning, June 3rd; that he was handcuffed and shackled during the entire airplane trip and when he arrived in St. Paul he was taken to the Federal Building there and placed in one of the rooms occupied by the F.B.I.; that he arrived at the F.B.I. headquarters in St. Paul about six o'clock A.M.; that he was taken to court at about ten o'clock A.M. on the morning of June 3rd, where he was arraigned on the indictment charging him with the crime of conspiracy. He contends that he was told by various representatives of the F.B.I. that if he entered a plea of guilty to the crime of conspiracy, he would get a term of years and that he did not need a lawyer; that his association with the Barker-Karpis gang was sufficient to connect him with the conspiracy charged in the indictment. Upon his arraignment, he states that the court asked him if his name was Volney Davis, and thereafter the indictment charging conspiracy was read to him. He contends that he asked the court what the penalty was and that the court stated that it was up to life. Thereafter, he contends he entered a plea of guilty. He states that he was not asked by the court if he was represented by counsel, or if he desired counsel. After entering his plea, sentence was deferred until June 7th and he was removed



to the Ramsey County Jail. He contends that between June 3rd and June 7th, he did talk to a lawyer; that the lawyer did not come to see him regarding his case, but that there was casual conversation between them regarding the plea that had been entered by petitioner to the conspiracy indictment in the Bremer case. Davis contends that he asked the lawyer whether or not he could withdraw his plea, but that he was informed by the lawyer that it would be impossible for him to withdraw his plea; and that he, Davis, was "sunk". Thereafter, on June 7, 1935, he states he was brought into court for sentence, and he contends that thereupon the court said, "You have entered a plea of guilty to conspiracy," to which he responded "Yes." Then he contends the court said, "Do you have a lawyer?" And he responded, "No, I don't need one, do I?" And that the court thereupon stated, "No, you don't." Whereupon, he contends that the court sentenced him to life imprisonment on his plea of guilty on June 3rd.

It was petitioner's position on this hearing that he believed the F.B.I. agents when they told him that his association with the Barker-Karpis gang would be sufficient to connect him with the crime of conspiracy as charged; that he did not know that he had a constitutional right to counsel; that he was never informed by the court that he was entitled to have counsel, or that the court would appoint counsel for him if he was unable to retain counsel; and that his plea of guilty was brought about by the suggestion of the F.B.I. agents, his mental confusion and exhaustion because of the events that took place between June 1st and June 3rd and his assumption that he would obtain a term of years and also to avoid going back to Oklahoma where he had been kept in solitary confinement prior to his furlough due to two attempts to escape.

Obviously, if Davis' relation of the facts herein is sustained, it seems evident that there is substance to his contention that he never intelligently, understandingly, and in a competent manner, waived the aid of counsel. But

after hearing all the evidence, I am convinced that, as observed by the Court of Appeals with reference to petitions of this kind, "lapso of time and wishful thinking ripen into a conviction that events were as alleged, when in fact they were not." (p. 122, 210 F. 2d).

The escape of Davis from the State Prison in Oklahoma and from the F.B.I. agents in February, 1935, fully warranted the authorities in taking adequate safety precautions to prevent another escape. His proclivities in that regard were demonstrated again after he was sentenced on June 7, 1935, and when, in removing him to a Federal institution, the Deputy Marshals found concealed on his person a small spring which he evidently intended to use to spring his handcuffs and thus aid him in making his escape. In any event, though he was handcuffed and shackled between the 1st and 3rd of June, prior to being taken into court, Davis does not contend that he was mistreated or abused in any way by the F.B.I. He does state that he was struck over the head by something when arrested, but that alleged episode is not sustained by the evidence. True, a gun of one of the arresting officers was discharged, but that occurred when Davis suddenly threw up his hands and unintentionally struck the arm of an officer, causing the gun to be accidentally discharged. When he was confined at the F.B.I. headquarters in Chicago, he was offered food and drink and, to the extent that he participated therein, was prompted by his own desires. That he slept at times in the Chicago headquarters and when the plane was waiting for some hours in Madison is made to appear by the testimony of various witnesses. The statement which he gave to the F.B.I. indicates a coherent and alert mind. It sets forth in great detail his association with the Bremer kidnapers, but he took particular pains in giving his statement to make it appear that he was not directly involved in the kidnapping or in any conspiracy to perpetrate that crime. It persuasively appears from the

testimony of many of the F.B.I. agents that when Davis was in their custody, he was affable, cooperative, and evidently greatly relieved that he had been captured and was no longer a fugitive. There was nothing in his manner or speech which indicated in any way that he was not entirely normal and fully possessed of all of his faculties. Before he was removed to St. Paul, the special agent in charge of the F.B.I. at Chicago discussed with him the question of his removal and told him that he had a right to be taken before a duly authorized court commissioner for the purpose of determining whether under the law he should be removed. But after having been informed of his rights in this regard, he freely and voluntarily signed a consent to be removed without appearing before any court commissioner for a hearing.

It is evident from the testimony that before June 3, 1935, Davis knew of the result of the Barker trial and the verdict of guilty on May 17, 1935, and that life sentences had been imposed upon some of the defendants. No doubt the airplane trip from Chicago to St. Paul was fraught with some worry and anxiety on the part of all of the passengers, but when the weather permitted the continuation of the flight from Madison, Wisconsin, to St. Paul, the trip was uneventful and good flying weather was encountered. The contention that Davis was so mentally distressed and exhausted upon arriving in St. Paul that his mental faculties were not normal is entirely overcome and is not sustained by the evidence before me. And if it be suggested that there was an unseemly haste between his arrest and the date of his arraignment, that was apparently brought about by reason of Davis' own desire to have the matter over with as soon as possible. No doubt there was conversation between the F.B.I. agents and Davis regarding the retaining of counsel, but the evidence does not sustain Davis' contention that the agents told him that he did not need counsel or that they were lawyers and would look out for his interests. It is incredible that

the agents would be as naive as to suggest any such plan to a seasoned criminal who had been a close associate of the Barker-Karpis gang. In any event, the agents unequivocally deny any such suggestion and testified that they repeatedly told Davis in Chicago and in St. Paul before his arraignment that he was entitled to have a lawyer represent him and that if he was unable to hire a lawyer, the court would appoint counsel for him. Davis had told the F.B.I. agents before he went into court that he was going to enter a plea of guilty to the conspiracy charge but not to the indictment charging him with the actual kidnapping; that the F.B.I. had the "goods" on him and that it would not do him any good to fight. The persuasive evidence is that Davis told the agents that he did not want a lawyer because Barker's lawyer had not accomplished anything for him, and instead of paying money to a lawyer he wanted to use his available funds for the purpose of helping out his parents. Davis had some \$300 on his person when arrested, and an additional sum of \$800 available to him in a place which he did not disclose at that time to the agents. I am firmly of the opinion from the evidence that Davis made up his mind to enter a plea of guilty to the conspiracy charge because he was convinced he would be found guilty if he stood trial and that he was reconciled to a life sentence because he was a fugitive from the Oklahoma Penitentiary where he was under such a sentence. The evidence does not sustain Davis' contention that any of the F.B.I. agents or Mr. Heisey, the Assistant United States Attorney, told him that if he entered a plea of guilty he would get a term of years, or that his association with the Barker-Karpis gang was sufficient to convict him of conspiracy. Mr. Heisey testified that he had never talked to Davis at any time.

It should be stated that in 1946 Davis sought a writ of habeas corpus in the Northern District of California when he was confined at Alcatraz, upon the grounds that his sentence in this Court was illegal and that he had been deprived

of his liberty without the benefit of counsel. The writ was denied upon the grounds that "the records of the case disclose that the petitioner intelligently waived the right to counsel." The habeas corpus proceeding was submitted upon affidavits in an ex parte proceeding, and although the Court of Appeals in Davis v. United States, 210 F. 2d 118, found that the affidavits before the California court furnished ample justification for the conclusion that Davis' claims were without merit, it concluded that the decision of the California court on ex parte affidavits did not deprive appellant of his right to have a hearing under Section 2255, at which time he could be present and present his evidence before the court.

In light of the evidence at the hearing herein, did Davis make a competent and intelligent waiver of his constitutional rights to counsel, with a full understanding of the implications of such waiver, when he entered his plea of guilty on June 3, 1935? In answering that question, I am fully apprised of the duty and responsibility which rest upon a trial court to determine whether an accused understandingly waives the aid and assistance of counsel and the implications therefrom, and that the fact that "an accused may state that he is informed of his right to counsel and desires to waive such right does not automatically end the responsibility of the court." Snell v. United States, 174 F. 2d 580, 582. The question whether an accused has waived his rights under the Sixth Amendment in a competent manner necessarily must be determined on the particular facts and circumstances of each case. An inexperienced and bewildered individual brought into court for the first time to face a criminal charge may require a long and thorough examination by the court in order to be assured that he understandingly waives the assistance of counsel. On the other hand, many individuals with a criminal background and long association with the underworld are so fully apprised of their rights to



the practical experience from previous court appearances and their associations that a fast through examination may not only suffice, but any extended examination would be an utter superfluous. Then, again, the demeanor, the facial expression, and the responses made by the accused each may convincingly disclose to an experienced trial judge whether the accused is intelligently and understandingly waiving his constitutional rights. And, of course, the law does not require the court to force an attorney upon an accused. The trial judge concluded from all the facts and circumstances made to appear to him when Davis was arraigned on June 3, 1935, that Davis intelligently and competently waived the assistance of counsel. Judge Joyce, the trial judge, appeared as a witness at this hearing and testified that his recollection of the Davis case had been refreshed over the years because of his correspondence with members of the Davis family and with Davis himself, and also by reason of the habeas corpus proceeding instituted by Davis in California in 1940. Judge Joyce testified that when Davis appeared before him on June 3, 1935, he asked him if he had a lawyer and that Davis responded in the negative. Then he asked him if he wanted a lawyer and Davis again responded in the negative. Thereupon, Judge Joyce testified that he asked him if he had funds with which to hire a lawyer and that if he did not, a lawyer would be appointed by the court without cost to him. Then, according to Judge Joyce, Davis stated that he did not want a lawyer, but that he wanted the conspiracy indictment read to him. The clerk was thereupon ordered to read the indictment, which was done, and the clerk then asked Davis what his plea was -- guilty or not guilty, and that Davis responded "guilty." The indictment was not phrased in involved legal language which would be difficult for a layman to understand or comprehend. Judge Joyce testified that upon observing Davis' demeanor and appearance, and in light of the questions propounded and the answers made, he was of the firm opinion, and still

is, that Davis intelligently and understandingly waived the services of counsel; that when Davis was sentenced on June 7, 1935, there was no colloquy whatsoever between him and Davis regarding counsel, and the testimony given by Davis that at that time in response to the court's question as to whether he had counsel he asked the court if he needed counsel and the court stated that he did not, is unequivocally denied by Judge Joyce, as well as by many other witnesses who appeared for the Government at this hearing.

The clerk's record is silent on the question of the petitioner's knowledge of his right to counsel and his waiver of such right. It merely states, "Upon being questioned by the court, said defendant stated that he did not desire the advice of counsel and entered a plea of guilty to the charge in the indictment." But the trial court's recollection of the colloquy between him and Davis on June 3, 1935, is corroborated in the main and with some additions by court attaches, newspaper men, deputy marshals, and F.B.I. representatives. One or more of the witnesses testified that they distinctly recollected that Judge Joyce called to Davis' attention the seriousness of the charge when he advised him about his right to have counsel. One of the newspaper men called as a witness by the Government testified that on June 3, 1935, after Davis had entered his plea, he talked to Davis at the Ramsey County Jail and that Davis at that time stated in substance that when he heard the indictment read he knew that "the Government had the stuff on him and that he expected that the Government would throw the book at him and give him life." As indicative of the normal mental outlook of Davis and the full understanding and appreciation of what his plea of guilty involved and of the sentence he would probably obtain, reference may be made to a letter he wrote to his parents and sister on June 3, 1935, when he was in the Ramsey County Jail and after he had entered his plea of guilty. The first paragraph of this letter reads, in part,

"At last I am in a position where I can write to you all again, and I am sure glad that I can for it has been awful to be running around over the country and not being able to write to the only ones in this world that really love me. I am here in jail and have entered a plea of guilty to conspiring in this case. I guess you have read about it in the papers. I will be sentenced on Friday this week. I don't know what I will get but I expect it will be a life sentence."

Moreover, in support of the testimony given by the F.B.I. agents that Davis stated to them that he did not care to hire a lawyer with the funds that were available to him but preferred instead to turn this money over to his parents, a receipt was introduced in evidence dated November 21, 1935, which, according to the testimony of an F.B.I. agent, was received from Davis' mother when he delivered to her at Davis' request the sum of \$1,143.40. This money was in the possession of, or available to, Davis at the time of his arrest. Davis does claim that he was told by the F.B.I. agents that he, Davis, did not have any money to hire a lawyer because his money would be confiscated, but the testimony of the agents denying any such statement and the ultimate disposition of the money to Davis' mother strongly negate the testimony of Davis in this regard.

The testimony given by Davis that the attorney who interviewed him after he had entered his plea of guilty, but before sentence, that he could not withdraw his plea of guilty and was "out", or words to that effect, is categorically denied by the attorney in question, who testified in behalf of the Government.

The issue of a petitioner's guilt or innocence is not before the court on a motion under Section 2255. But petitioner here voluntarily injected that issue into the proceeding when he testified that he was not guilty of the charge contained in the indictment and had no connection with the Bremer kidnapping.



conspiracy. In light of that testimony, the Court permitted the Government to call a witness who was closely associated with Davis during the period in question and who gave damaging and convincing testimony as to Davis' complicity and participation in the offense to which he entered a plea of guilty. This testimony was competent, at least in so far as it tended to bear upon the credibility of Davis' testimony on the material issues herein.

After due reflection and consideration of all of the evidence, I have come to a sustained and abiding conviction that when Volney Davis entered his plea of guilty on June 3, 1935, he competently, intelligently, and understandingly waived his constitutional rights to be represented by counsel under the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, with a full understanding of the implications thereof. The above may be considered as the Court's findings of fact herein. It follows, therefore, as a conclusion of law that the petitioner's motion must be denied. It is so ordered.

An exception is allowed.

Dated this 11th day of August, 1954.

BY THE COURT:

GUNNAR H. NORDBYE

Chief Judge.

Assistant Attorney General  
Warren Olney III

August 16, 1954

Director, FBI

**VOLNEY DAVIS**  
**HABEAS CORPUS**  
(YOUR REFERENCE 109-39-1, RSE)

This is to advise that the hearing on Volney Davis' petition for release on habeas corpus began at 10:00 a.m., July 7, 1954, in United States District Court, Minneapolis, Minnesota, with the Honorable Gunnar Nordbye, Chief Judge, United States District Court, Minneapolis, presiding.

The hearing was concluded on July 12, 1954, at which time Judge Nordbye stated he would take the case under advisement and would render a written opinion.

On August 11, 1954, Judge Nordbye issued a court order denying Volney Davis' motion for an order vacating and setting aside the life sentence imposed upon Davis on June 7, 1935.

The above data are for your information and for the completion of your file.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 11  
AUG 16 1954  
COMM - FBI

RECORDED - 6

AUG 18 1954

113

EX-103

MTC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 11 1954

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

8-11-54 11-58 AM

DIRECTOR,

URGENT

BREKID. REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED JULY THIRTEEN,

FIFTYFOUR, MINNEAPOLIS. HONORABLE GUNNAR NORDBYE, CHIEF JUDGE,

USDC, MINNEAPOLIS, ISSUED COURT ORDER TODAY DENYING VOLNEY DAVIS-S

MOTION FOR AN ORDER VACATING AND SETTING ASIDE A LIFE SENTENCE

IMPOSED UPON HIM ON JUNE SEVEN, THIRTYFIVE, UPON A PLEA OF GUILTY

ENTERED ON JUNE THIRD, THIRTYFIVE, TO AN INDICTMENT CHARGING THAT

HE CONSPIRED WITH OTHERS TO, AND DID, KIDNAP ONE EDWARD GEORGE

BREMER OF ST. PAUL, MINN., AND TRANSPORT HIM INTO THE STATE OF

ILLINOIS. THE COURT-S ORDER IS SET FORTH IN A FOURTEEN PAGE

OPINION, COPY OF WHICH IS BEING FURNISHED THE BUREAU AM.

HOWARD RECORDED - 71

AUG 18 1954

SENT DIRECTOR

END AND ACK PLS

2-03 PM OK FBI WA RD

CC: MR. ROSEN  
AND SUPERVISOR  
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

8/16/54  
memo to  
AAG Olney  
UTC

October 5, 1954

Director, FBI

7-576-15400

MRS. YADA HOWARD  
aka MRS. WARREN W. HOWARD  
CLAIM FOR REWARD FOR CAPTURE  
OF ALVIN KARPIS  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

RECORDED-37

EX-124

Reurlet of September 27, 1954.

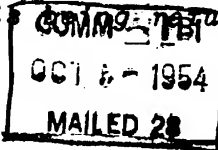
As you are aware, Alvin Karpis was apprehended at New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 1, 1936. Mrs. Yada Nyberg, then of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was not interviewed by Bureau Agents until May 19, 1938, when investigation was being conducted at Hot Springs concerning harboring matters arising from the apprehension of Karpis. When interviewed on May 19, 1938, Mrs. Nyberg stated that in November, 1935, she had been requested by a Hot Springs police officer to furnish him any information that might come to her concerning Karpis, apparently this officer having in mind that Karpis might be in the area. In December, 1935, Mrs. Nyberg did actually recognize Karpis in Hot Springs, and a few days later she called upon Chief of Police Joseph Wakelin and allegedly offered to furnish information as to Karpis' whereabouts if Wakelin would divide the reward with her. Wakelin, however, already knew of Karpis' whereabouts in Hot Springs, and merely laughed at Mrs. Nyberg, indicating to her that her information could not possibly be true. After the arrest of Karpis in New Orleans, she talked again to Wakelin and he supposedly admitted to her, according to her statements, that she was correct in her identification. Subsequently, Mrs. Nyberg testified as a Government witness concerning these facts at the time of the prosecution of Wakelin.

On June 30, 1939, Mrs. Nyberg appeared at the Bureau and, among other things, she expressed her interest in obtaining a reward. It was pointed out to her that the facts in her possession in December, 1935, were not then made known to the Bureau and, as a matter of fact, did not come to our attention until she was interviewed by Bureau Agents in May, 1938, two years after the apprehension of Karpis, and that, of course, her information had nothing whatever to do with the apprehension. It was explained to her that the information she had furnished in 1938 and the investigation conducted at that time had to do solely with the prosecution of certain individuals in Hot Springs in connection with the harboring of Karpis and that no reward whatever had been offered in that regard.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment (Enclosure is being returned)

MLL:jsm



61 OCT 14 1954

TO: SAC, Houston (62-0-2072)  
FROM: Director, FBI  
SUBJECT: MRS. VADA HOWARD  
aka MRS. WARREN W. HOWARD  
CLAIM FOR REWARD FOR CAPTURE  
OF ALVIN KARPIS  
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

10-5-54

Mrs. Nyberg seemed entirely reconciled to the facts and admitted that the above was entirely true and that she had never spoken to a Bureau Agent until 1938.

For your information, the files reflect that Mrs. Nyberg may be of questionable reputation, and members of the Hot Springs Police Department, not involved in the harboring matter, indicated that her reputation was that of a "shakedown artist"

b7c

Mrs. Howard's letter is returned herewith. You should communicate with her and refresh her memory as to the explanation given her when she was interviewed at the Bureau on June 30, 1939. It should be indicated to her that this is the Bureau's final and unalterable position in this regard, and we can be of no assistance to her.

NOTE: Background per Bufile 7-576. Copy of Mrs. Howard's letter being retained for the file.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 9/27/54

FROM : SAC, Houston (62-0-2072)

SUBJECT: Mrs. VADA HOWARD,  
aka Mrs. Warren W. Howard  
CLAIM FOR REWARD FOR CAPTURE  
OF ALVIN KARPIS

Re Houston letter to Director dated 9/27/53, captioned ALVIN KARPIS and DUTCH AKERS. Reflet indicated that Mrs. WARREN W. HOWARD, Port Arthur, Texas, advised she had seen DUTCH AKERS on the streets of Port Arthur and was worried about her personal safety. She also alleged she furnished information which had aided in the conviction of AKERS, former Chief of Detectives, Hot Springs, Arkansas, in about 1938.

On 9/22/54 Mrs. HOWARD, who is now using the name of Mrs. VADA HOWARD, 2210 Indiana Avenue, Houston, Texas, called at the office and advised she desired to make a claim for information furnished by her which assisted in the apprehension of ALVIN KARPIS. Mrs. HOWARD appeared to be very nervous, emotionally up-set, and stated she was in a serious condition because of cancer. For the foregoing reasons, I asked her to go home and send a letter to me making her claim and advised her I would forward her claim to Washington for appropriate attention.

I have received a letter from Mrs. HOWARD, dated September 24, 1954, which is attached.

At the time I talked to Mrs. Howard on 9/22/54, I advised her I was not familiar with the conditions of the reward for KARPIS or, in fact, whether there had been such a reward offered. I advised her the Bureau had nothing to do with offering such a reward to my knowledge and I did not know if anything could be done to assist her. She nevertheless persisted in making the claim.

COPIES DESTROYED

186 MAR 26 1965

GCB:nk

Encl. (1)

(ret. by let 10-8-54)

RECORDED-37

INDEXED-37

SEP 30 1954

let Sac Houston  
10-8-54  
MCL.

EX-124

CRIM

For the Bureau's information, the Little Rock Office by letter dated 10/2/43 advised that a review of the KARPIS file reflects that VADA NYBERG, the name Mrs. Howard was using at that time, was a witness in the KARPIS case. However, she was just one of many witnesses. The Little Rock Office advised that Captain JERRY WATKINS, of the Hot Springs PD, showed the photograph of KARPIS to Mrs. Howard in late November or early December, 1935. Several days later Mrs. Howard called Captain WATKINS and advised that while visiting at 202 Fincel Street she had seen a man in the back yard of 124 Club Street, adjacent to 202 Fincel, and recognized this man as ALVIN KARPIS. She reported this on two occasions to WATKINS who told her KARPIS was not in or near Hot Springs at that time and no action was taken.

Inasmuch as I am not aware of the particulars surrounding the alleged reward for the capture of KARPIS, I would appreciate advice from the Bureau as to whether or not I should communicate with Mrs. Howard. Since the letter was written at my request and since it was sent Return Receipt Requested and I signed the card, I do not feel the letter itself need be acknowledged.



7-576-1540

ENCLOSURE



From: Mrs. Vada Howard  
2210 Indiana  
Houston 19, Texas

Phone Ly-8827

Houston, Texas

September 24, 1954

Subj.: Reward for capture of ALVIN KARPIS

Mr. George Burton,  
Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Office Building  
Houston 2, Texas

Dear Mr. Burton:

In connection with our conversation of September 22, 1954, concerning the \$10,000 reward for furnishing information that brought about the capture of Alvin Karpis in Hot Springs, Arkansas, during the latter part of 1937.

At that time my name was "Vada Juanita Nyberg" and I have since married Mr. Warren W. Howard.

I believe that I am entitled to this reward for the following reasons:

- (1) I cooperated with and gave information to Captain Jerry Watkins of the Hot Springs police department that brought about the arrest of Alvin Karpis;
- (2) After Alvin Karpis was arrested I identified him and appeared as a Government witness in Little Rock, Arkansas, when he was tried;
- (3) My life was in constant danger and it was necessary for me to be under police protection at all times due to the threats that had been made against my life by friends of Karpis;
- (4) During the time I was working with the police and FBI I had to give up my job at Perry Brothers and I suffered great financial loss;
- (5) The constant danger that I was in also caused me physical and mental suffering.

I honestly believe I am entitled to receive this reward and I will greatly appreciate your attention given it.

Original returned SAC, Houston  
by letter of October 2, 1954.

Yours very truly

*Mrs. Vada Howard*

Mrs. Vada Howard  
2210 Indiana St. Houston 19,  
Texas

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. J. PARSONS

DATE: January 14, 1955

FROM : MR. T. D. BEACH

SUBJECT: BREKID

*Edward George Bremer*

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The specimens listed below have been retained in the Laboratory's Bulky Exhibit File since their receipt on July 23, 1938.

K8 Four .45 caliber cartridge cases  
K11 .45 caliber projectile fired by suspect's Karpis and Campbell

The source and identity of these specimens are set out in Serials 14996, 15007 and 15022 of Bureau File 7-576.

## RECOMMENDATION:

It is requested that the Investigative Division advise whether or not these specimens may be destroyed.

7-576

RAF:rls  
(4 copies)

RECORDED-27

JAN 27 1955

7-576-15482  
17 JAN 20 1955

SEVEN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. FD-36  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following ~~teletype~~ <sup>AIRTEL</sup> message to: BUREAU (7-576)

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS 10/12/54

SF:KM

DIRECTOR

VOLNEY DAVIS; WAS, ETAL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM KIDNAPING.

REREP SA SIGURD FLAATA DATED 8/11/54. AUSA ALEX DIM, ST. PAUL, ADVISED

TODAY APPEAL FILED BY VOLNEY DAVIS FROM DECISION HANDED DOWN BY HON.

GUNNAR H. NORDBYE, JUDGE, USDC, ST. PAUL, ON 8/11/54. DIM STATED JUDGE

NORDBYE ON BASIS OF AFFIDAVIT FILED BY DAVIS SIGNED ORDER GRANTING APPEAL

AND PERMITTED DAVIS TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS AND ORDERED COURT REPORTER

TO FURNISH WITHOUT COST TO DAVIS TWO COPIES OF TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING AND

ORDERED CLERK OF COURT TO PREPARE WITHOUT COST TO DAVIS COPIES OF

FOLLOWING RECORDS: 1. ALL OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS OF THE ARRAIGNMENT

HELD ON JUNE 3, 1935; 2. ALL OF THE ORIGINAL RECORDS AND ORIGINAL MINUTES

AND SENTENCE AND COMMITMENT MADE JUNE 7, 1935; 3. A COMPLETE RECORD OF

THE AMENDMENT OF THE RECORD WHICH WAS MADE ON OCTOBER 10, 1939. DIM

ADVISED VOLNEY DAVIS APPEAL TAKEN ON FOLLOWING POINTS: 1. THAT PETITIONER

HAD ON FILE IN THE ABOVE NAMED COURT A COURT ACTION PURSUANT TO TITLE 28,

SECTION 2255, IN WHICH DISPOSITION WAS MADE IN THE FORM OF DENIAL; 2. THE

COURT EXCEEDED ITS AUTHORITY IN THIS HEARING BY ALLOWING PETITIONER'S COMMON

LAW WIFE TO TESTIFY ADVERSELY TO PETITIONER'S CONTENTIONS; 3. THE COURT

ERRORED IN ALLOWING A WITNESS THAT ADMITTED SHE HAD BEEN A GOVERNMENT WITNESS

IN OTHER BREMER KIDNAPING TRIAL AND WHO, HERSELF, HAD BEEN CHARGED IN THE

7-30 Mr. Rosen

EX - 109

17 OCT 13 1954

Approved: *CM*

Sent

Per

Special Agent in Charge

61 OCT 25 1954

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

BREMER KIDNAPING INDICTMENT TO TESTIFY IN A HEARING BY A MOTION OF TITLE 28, SECTION 2255. 4. THE COURT ERRORED IN ALLOWING MANY WITNESSES TO TESTIFY CONCERNING INCIDENTS THAT HAPPENED BEFORE AND AFTER PETITIONER HAD BEEN ARRAIGNED AND SENTENCED, TESTIMONY THAT HAD NO BEARING ON A MOTION UNDER TITLE 28, SECTION 2255. 5. WITNESSES ASKED FOR BY PETITIONER WERE NOT BROUGHT TO THE COURT FOR THE HEARING, WHICH IS IN VIOLATION OF THE SIXTH ARTICLE OF THE TEN ORIGINAL (BILL OF RIGHTS) TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH STATES 'TO HAVE COMPULSORY PROCESS FOR OBTAINING WITNESSES IN HIS FAVOR.' 6. THAT THE HONORABLE JUDGE GUNNAR H. NORDBYE IN ALLOWING THE ABOVE MENTIONED FACTS TO OCCUR CAUSED CROSS PREJUDICE TO PETITIONER'S CAUSE. DIM ALSO STATED IN VIEW OF THE DELAY NECESSARY IN PREPARING TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING, AND FOR FILING THE RECORD ON APPEAL AND DOCKETING, THE APPEAL WAS EXTENDED BY THE COURT TO DECEMBER 15, 1954. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. CLOSED.

HOWARD

DEC 14 8 11 AM '54

RECEIVED

40 - WPM

RECEIVED

DEC 13 3 44 PM '54

DEC 12 8 53 PM '54

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Rosen *Re*

DATE: January 19, 1955

FROM : Mr. Price *HP*

SUBJECT: ALVIN KARPIS, WAS. (DECEASED) *1/15/55*  
 ARTHUR R. BARKER, WAS. (DECEASED)  
 VOLNEY DAVIS, ET AL  
 EDWARD GEORGE BREMER - VICTIM  
 KIDNAPING

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

2-1  
 1-1  
 5-1  
 3-1

*Beach*  
*Parsons*

Memorandum from *Mr.* Beach to Mr. Parsons, January 14, 1955, stating four .45 caliber cartridge cases and a .45 caliber projectile have been in the Laboratory's Bulky Exhibit File since July 23, 1938. The memorandum requested the Investigative Division advise whether or not these specimens may be destroyed.

On January 21, 1935, subject Volney Davis was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury, St. Paul, Minnesota, on two counts charging him and others with conspiring to transport victim from Minnesota to Illinois and to hold him for ransom. On June 3, 1935, Davis entered a plea of guilty in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, Minnesota, and on June 7, 1935, was sentenced to serve life imprisonment.

On December 5, 1952, Davis filed a petition in U. S. District Court, St. Paul, for release on habeas corpus. On August 11, 1954, Chief Judge Gunnar H. Nordbye, U. S. District Court, Minneapolis, issued a court order denying Davis's motion for an order vacating and setting aside his life sentence on a kidnaping charge. On October 12, 1954, Davis filed an appeal from the decision of Judge Nordbye. The appeal is still pending.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that in view of the current legal action being taken by Volney Davis that the evidence presently in the Laboratory be retained, and this memorandum be routed to the Laboratory for the information of the Laboratory.

cc: Mr. Parsons

RJG:fc  
 (7)

7-576

~~RECORDED-27~~

13 JAN 20

7-576-15403

SEVEN  
*RE*

64 JAN 25 1955 *444*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Boardman	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

AIRTEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to: DIRECTOR

FBI, MINNEAPOLIS

1-18-55

SF:MAT

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

VOLNEY DAVIS, WAS., ETAL; EDWARD GEORGE BREMER, VICTIM, KIDNAPING. RE  
MP AIRTEL TO BUREAU 10-12-54. ALEX DIM, AUSA, ST. PAUL, MINN., WHO HANDLED CASE  
FOR GOVERNMENT AT HEARING GRANTED VOLNEY DAVIS AT ST. PAUL, ADVISED THE MP  
DIVISION TODAY THAT THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS, ST. LOUIS,  
ADVISED HIM THAT VOLNEY DAVIS APPEAL DOCKET #15229 WAS RECEIVED BY THE  
CIRCUIT COURT AT ST. LOUIS 12-13-54 AND THAT DAVIS HAS PETITIONED THE COURT  
OF APPEALS TO APPOINT AN ATTORNEY FOR HIM. DIM STATED THE NEXT STEP WAS  
FOR DAVIS TO FILE A BRIEF WITH THE CIRCUIT COURT, AFTER WHICH DIM WILL FILE  
A BRIEF FOR THE GOVERNMENT, OPPOSING DAVIS' BRIEF. DIM ADVISED THAT ALL  
TRANSCRIPTS AND COPIES OF TESTIMONY AND GOVERNMENT EXHIBITS MENTIONED IN  
IN REFERENCED AIRTEL HAVE BEEN FURNISHED TO DAVIS AT LEAVENWORTH PENITENTIARY.  
BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

HOWARD

END  
7-30  
(4)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 115

7-576-15407

20 JAN 19 1955

7-467

64 JAN 21 1955

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

3-8-55

AIRTEL

RECORDED - 97

SAC'S CHICAGO (7-82) AIR MAIL  
MINNEAPOLIS (7-10) AIR MAIL

IS SUFFERING FROM CANCER AND WAS TO ENTER THE MICHAEL REASE HOSPI-  
TAL CHICAGO. CHICAGO ESTABLISH LIAISON WITH U.S. PROBATION OFFICE  
IN ORDER TO BE ADVISED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN SAWYER'S CONDITION.  
KEEP THE BUREAU AND MINNEAPOLIS ADVISED.

HOOVER

RJG:EAM  
(6)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Boardman \_\_\_\_\_  
Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMM - FBI  
MAR 8 1955  
MAILED 30

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FD-36

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Sizoo  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Mr. Holloman  
Miss Gandy

FBI, KANSAS CITY (7-37)

3/3/55

AIR-TEL, AIR MAIL

DIRECTOR, FBI (7-576)

BREKID. CI OO. ON 3/1/55 C.F. ZARTER, RECORD CLERK, USP, LEAVEN-  
WORTH, KS., ADVISED THAT HARRY SAWYER, FBI #421335, WAS PAROLED  
FROM THAT PRISON ON 2/22/55 TO REPORT TO THE U.S. PROBATION OFFICER,  
CG. HE SAID THAT SAWYER HAS CANCER OF THE PROSTATE, DOES NOT  
HAVE LONG TO LIVE, AND WAS TAKEN FROM THIS PRISON ON A BED, VIA  
TRAIN, TO CG, WHERE HE WAS TO ENTER THE MICHAEL REASE HOSPITAL,  
CG. RUC.

SIMON

WH/nlr  
(6)

cc - 1 - CINCINNATI (7-43)

cc - 1 - CHICAGO (7-82) (INFO)

Mr. Rosen

RECORDED - 97

EX-103

29 MAR 7 1955

Approved: W. J. Simon  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent M Per W. J. Simon